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SONIC SUPER SPECIAL

BATTLE ROYAL

48 PAGE SPECIAL!



SONIC vs. KNUCKLES™

BATTLE ROYAL



"BATTLE ROYAL!"

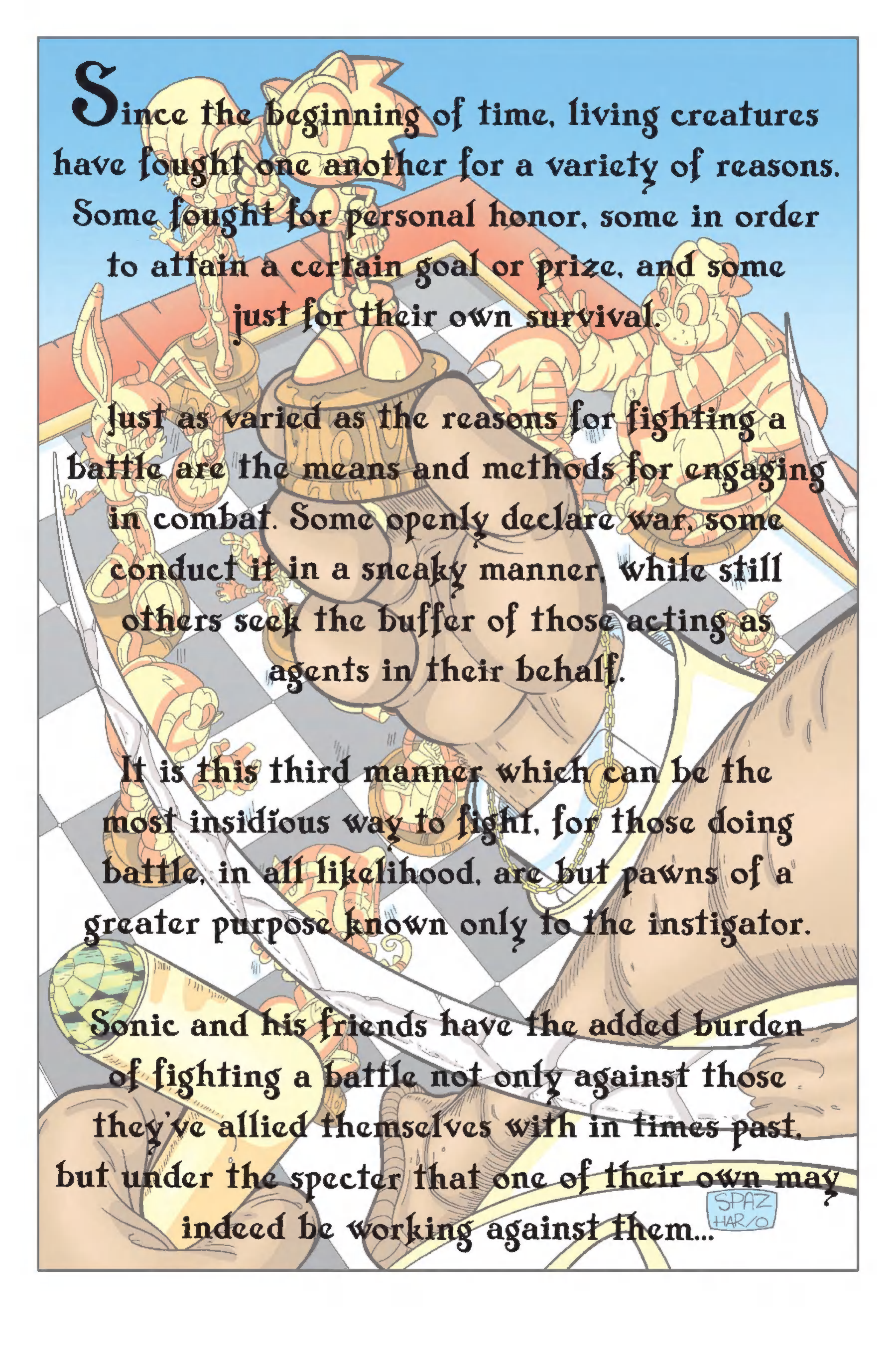
**Kent Taylor & Ken Pender-Writers, Sam Maxwell-Penciler
Jim Amash-Inker, Karl Bollers-Colorist, Jeff Powell-Letterer**

"THE MAP"

**Tom Rolston-Writer, Dave Manak-Penciler, Rich Koslowski-Inker
Barry Grossman-Colorist, Vickie Williams-Letterer**

**J. Freddy Gabriele-Editor, Victor Gorelick-Managing Editor
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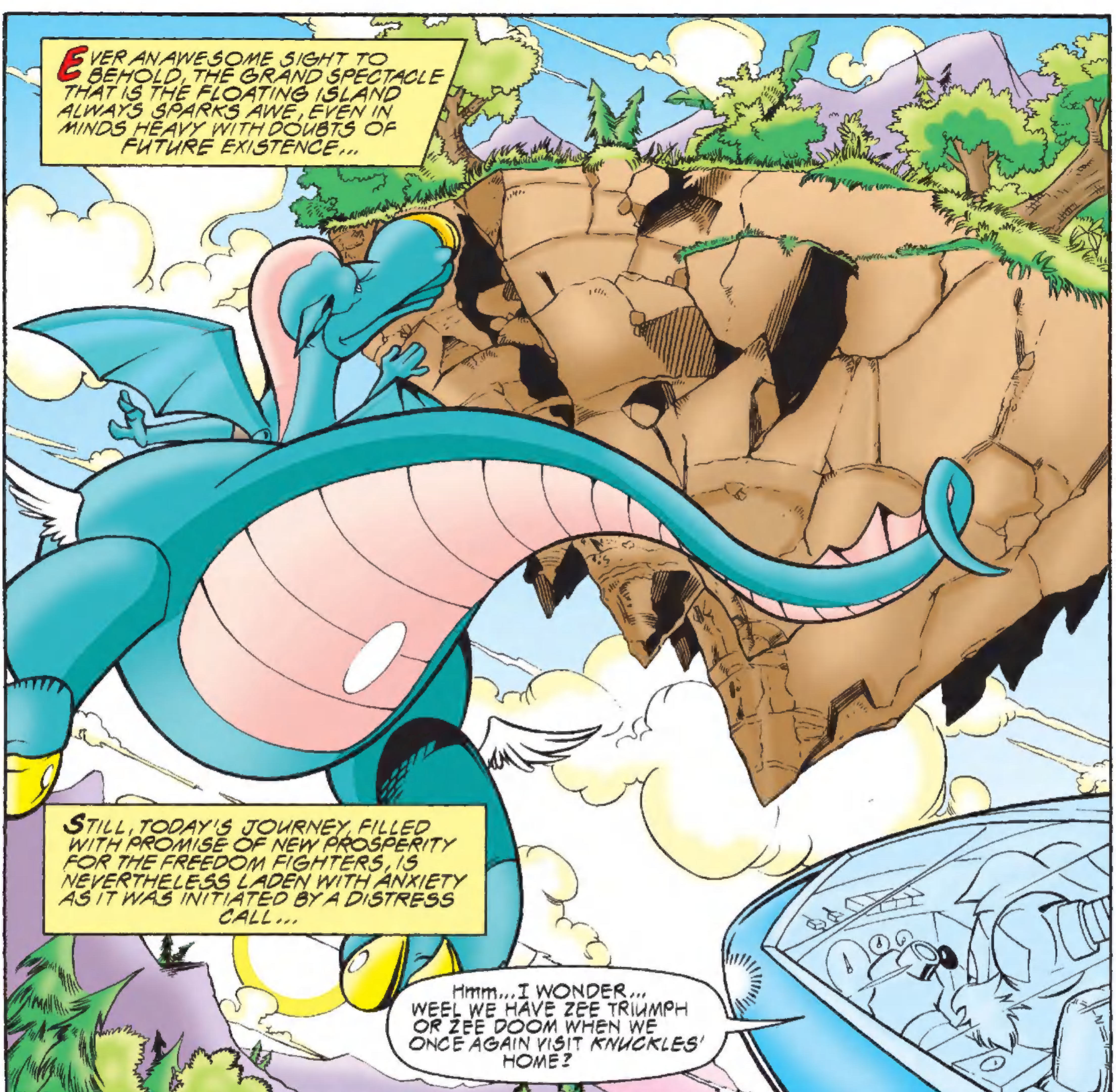
Since the beginning of time, living creatures have fought one another for a variety of reasons. Some fought for personal honor, some in order to attain a certain goal or prize, and some just for their own survival.

Just as varied as the reasons for fighting a battle are the means and methods for engaging in combat. Some openly declare war, some conduct it in a sneaky manner, while still others seek the buffer of those acting as agents in their behalf.

It is this third manner which can be the most insidious way to fight, for those doing battle, in all likelihood, are but pawns of a greater purpose known only to the instigator.

Sonic and his friends have the added burden of fighting a battle not only against those they've allied themselves with in times past, but under the specter that one of their own may indeed be working against them...

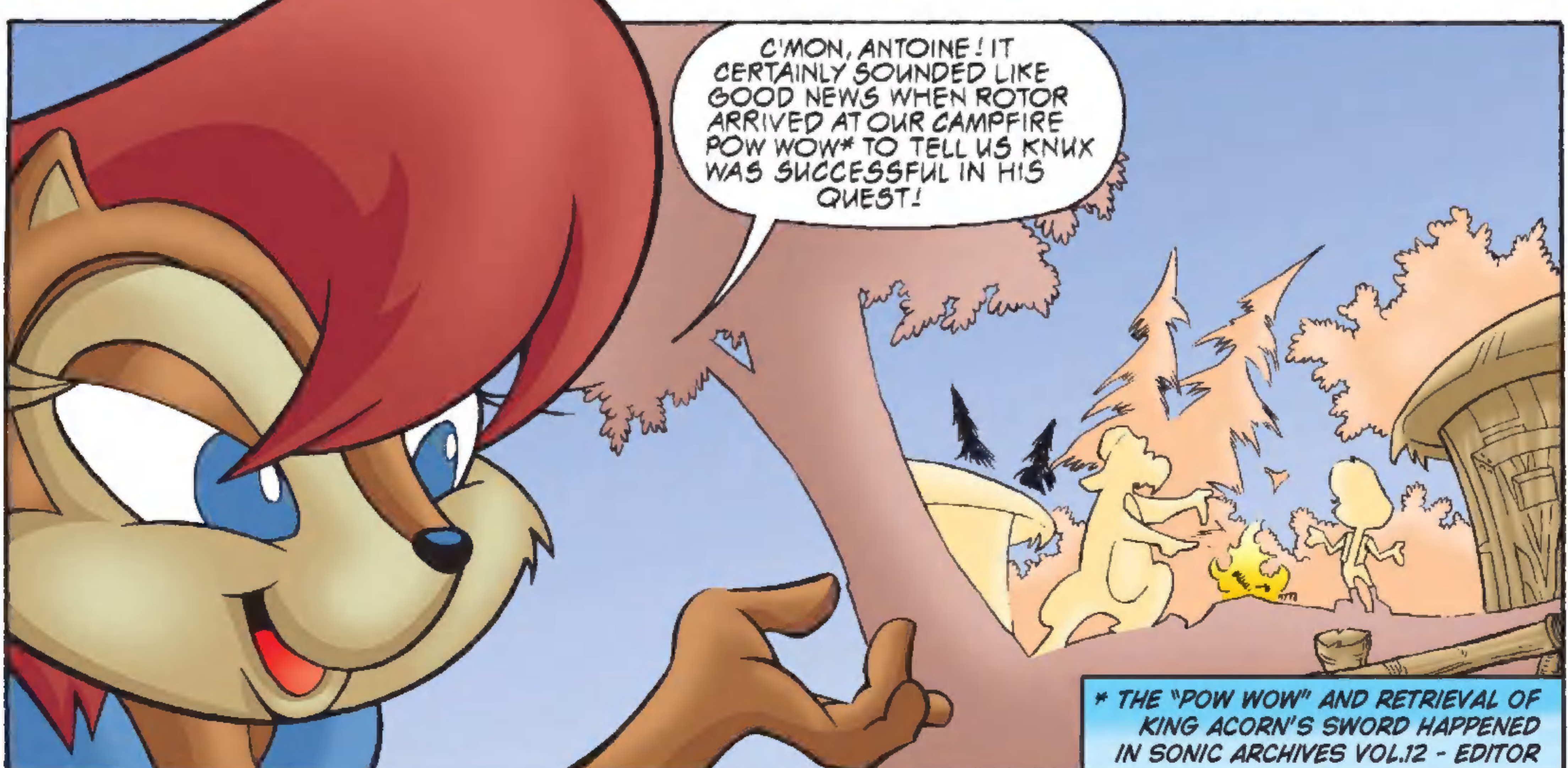




EVER AN AWESOME SIGHT TO BEHOLD, THE GRAND SPECTACLE THAT IS THE FLOATING ISLAND ALWAYS SPARKS AWE, EVEN IN MINDS HEAVY WITH DOUBTS OF FUTURE EXISTENCE...

STILL, TODAY'S JOURNEY, FILLED WITH PROMISE OF NEW PROSPERITY FOR THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, IS NEVERTHELESS LADEN WITH ANXIETY AS IT WAS INITIATED BY A DISTRESS CALL...

Hmm... I WONDER... WE'LL WE HAVE ZEE TRIUMPH OR ZEE DOOM WHEN WE ONCE AGAIN VISIT KNUCKLES' HOME?



C'MON, ANTOINE! IT CERTAINLY SOUNDED LIKE GOOD NEWS WHEN ROTOR ARRIVED AT OUR CAMPFIRE POW WOW* TO TELL US KNUX WAS SUCCESSFUL IN HIS QUEST!

* THE "POW WOW" AND RETRIEVAL OF KING ACORN'S SWORD HAPPENED IN SONIC ARCHIVES VOL.12 - EDITOR



UNFORTUNATELY, KNUX'S RADIOED MESSAGE ALSO SAID THE ISLAND WAS UNDER SIEGE...

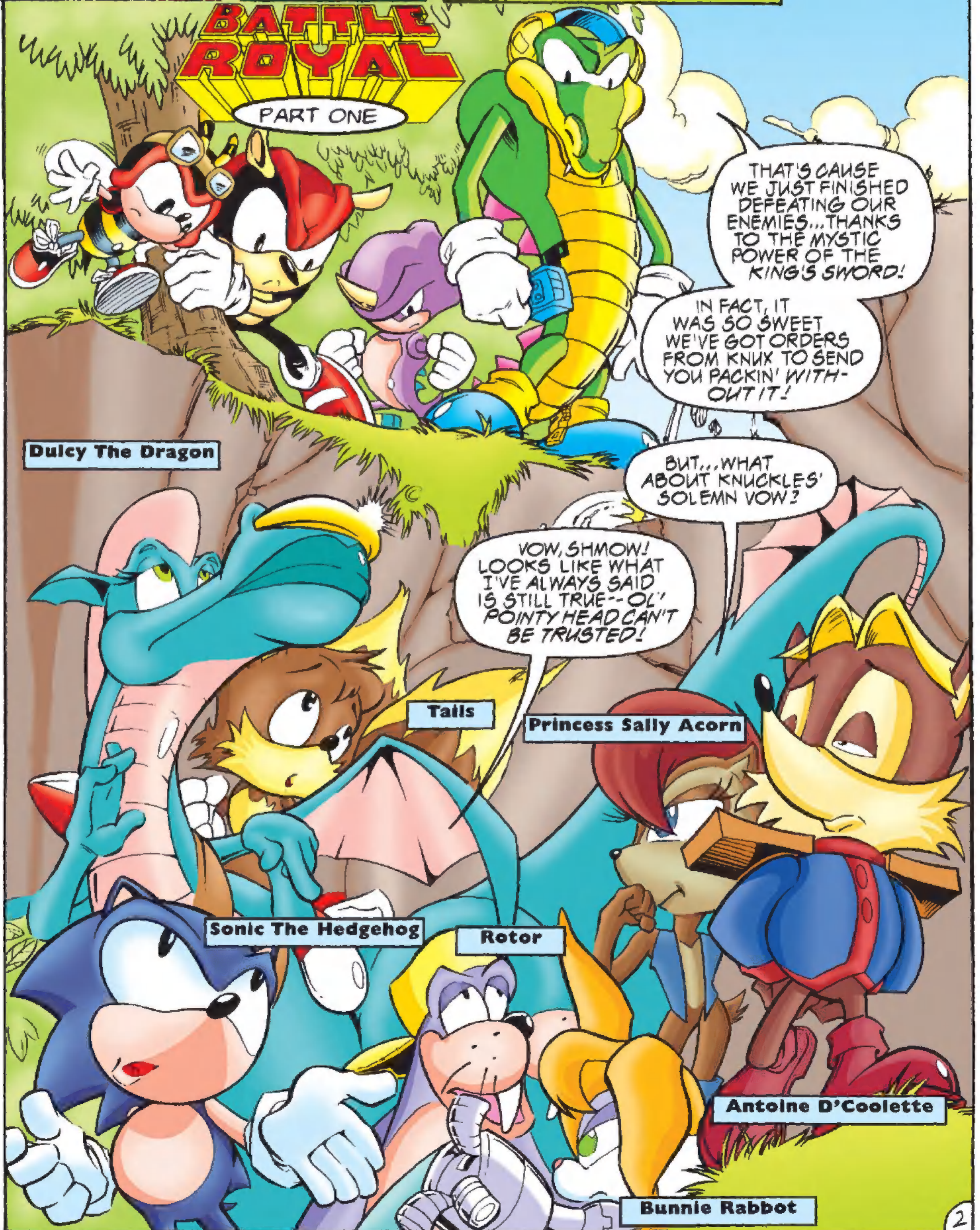


...AND AFTER ALL HE'S DONE FOR US, THE LEAST WE OWE HIM IS A LITTLE SUPPORT!



BUT AFTER A LONG AND SEEMINGLY FRUITLESS EXPEDITION...

HOW COME THERE'S NO SIGN OF KNUX OR A BATTLE?



BATTLE ROYAL

PART ONE

Dulcy The Dragon

THAT'S CAUSE WE JUST FINISHED DEFEATING OUR ENEMIES... THANKS TO THE MYSTIC POWER OF THE KING'S SWORD!

IN FACT, IT WAS SO SWEET WE'VE GOT ORDERS FROM KNUX TO SEND YOU PACKIN' WITHOUT IT!

BUT... WHAT ABOUT KNUCKLES' SOLEMN VOW?

VOW, SHMOW! LOOKS LIKE WHAT I'VE ALWAYS SAID IS STILL TRUE-- OL' POINTY HEAD CAN'T BE TRUSTED!

Tails

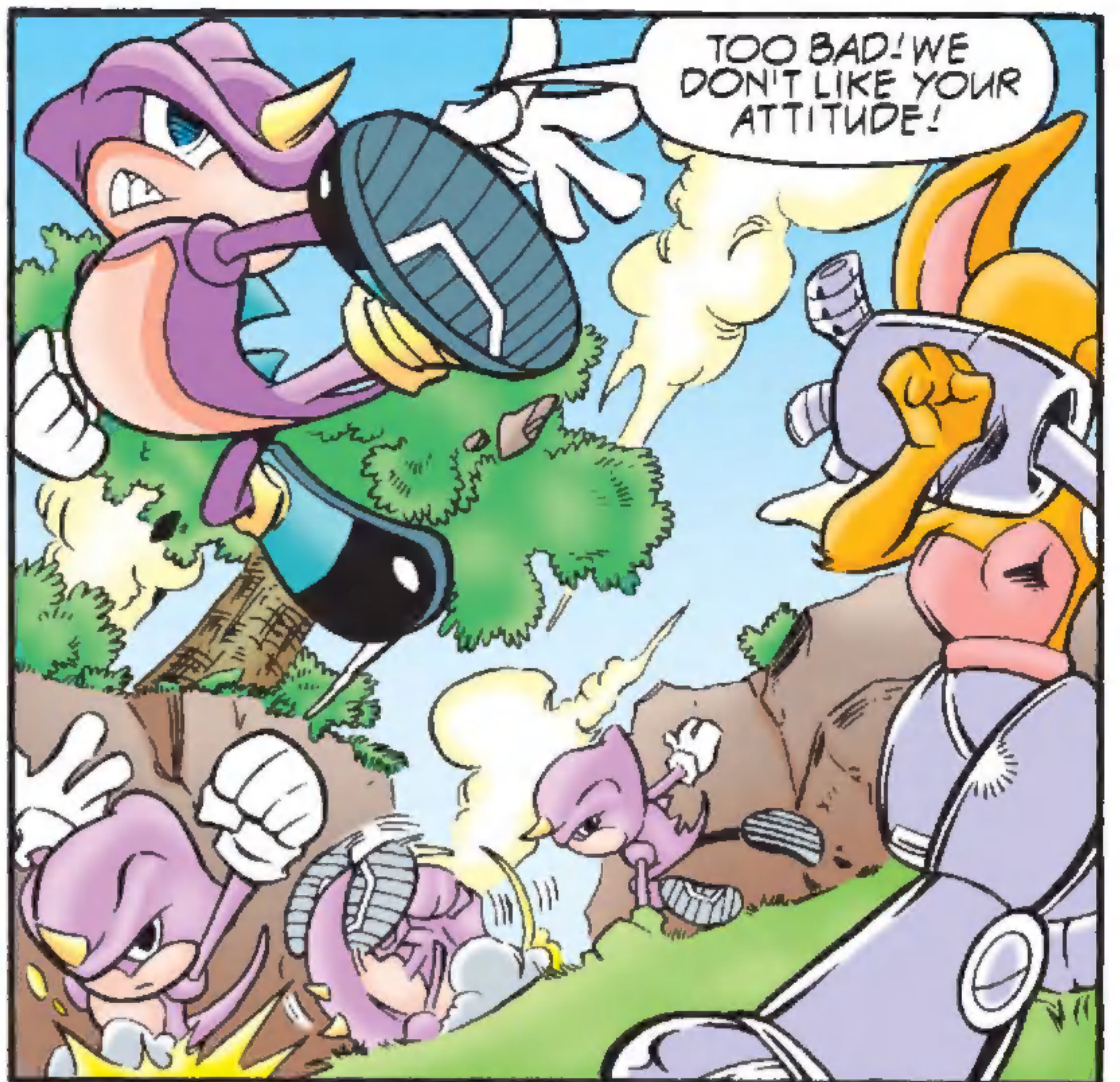
Princess Sally Acorn

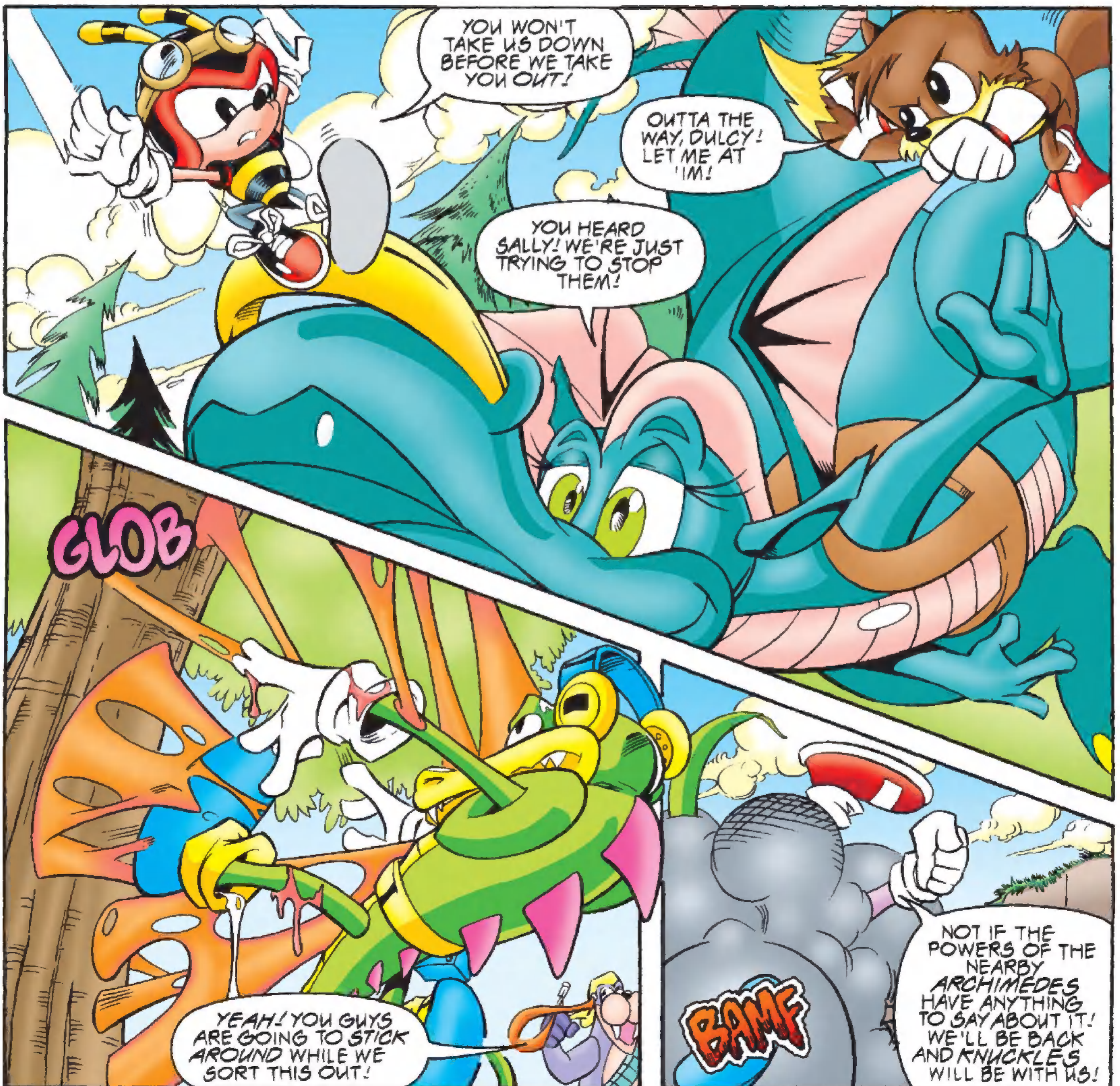
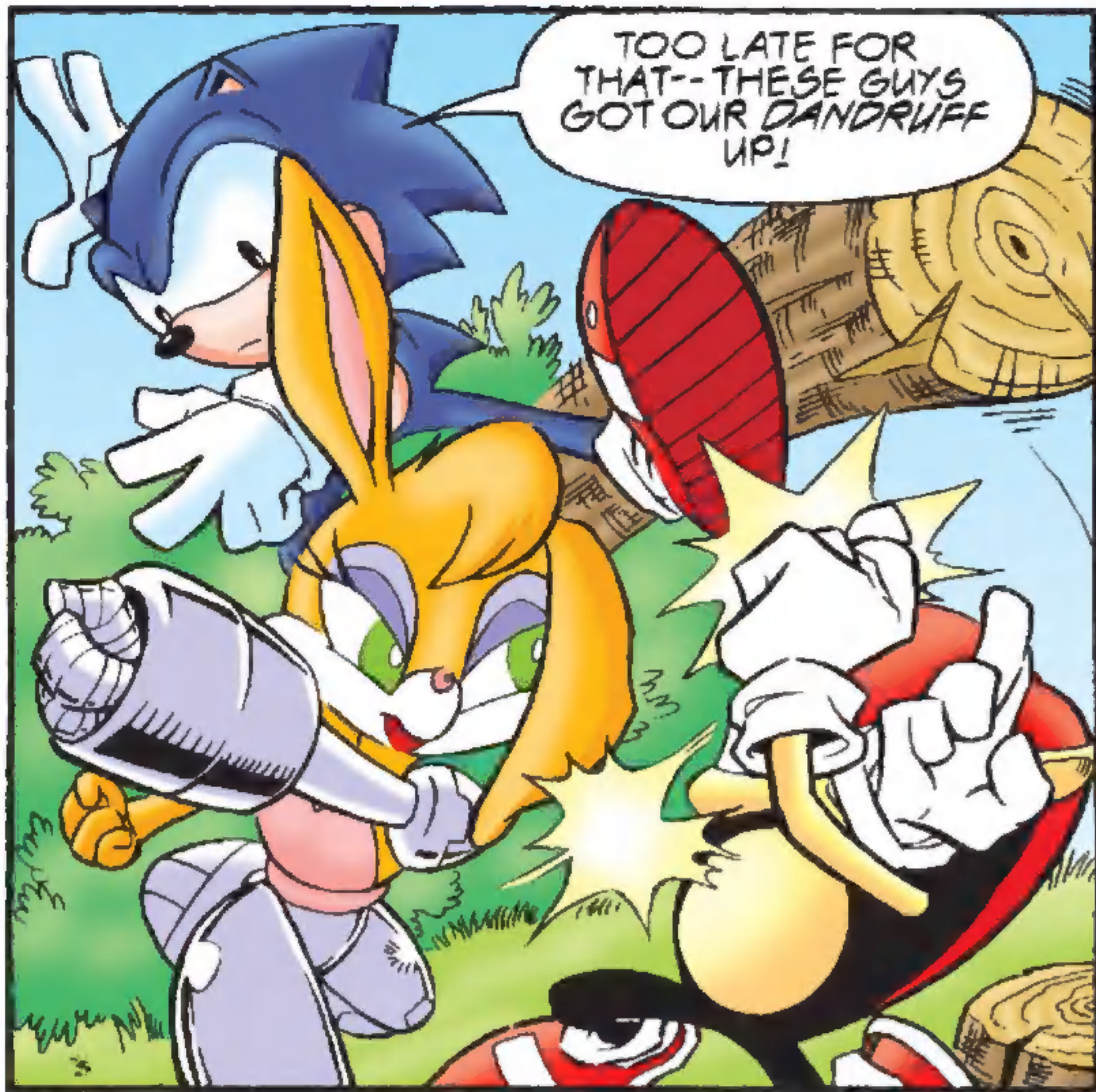
Sonic The Hedgehog

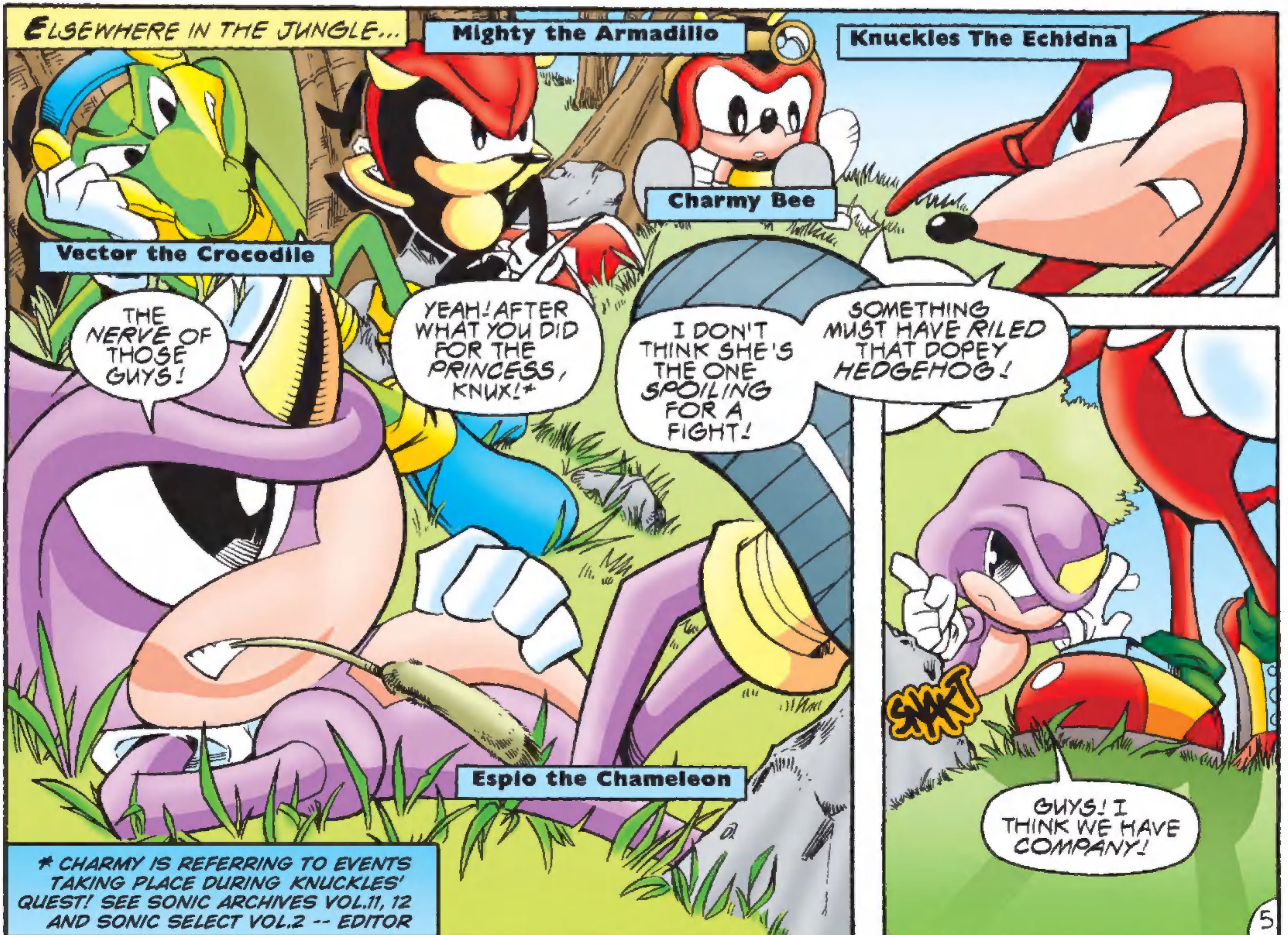
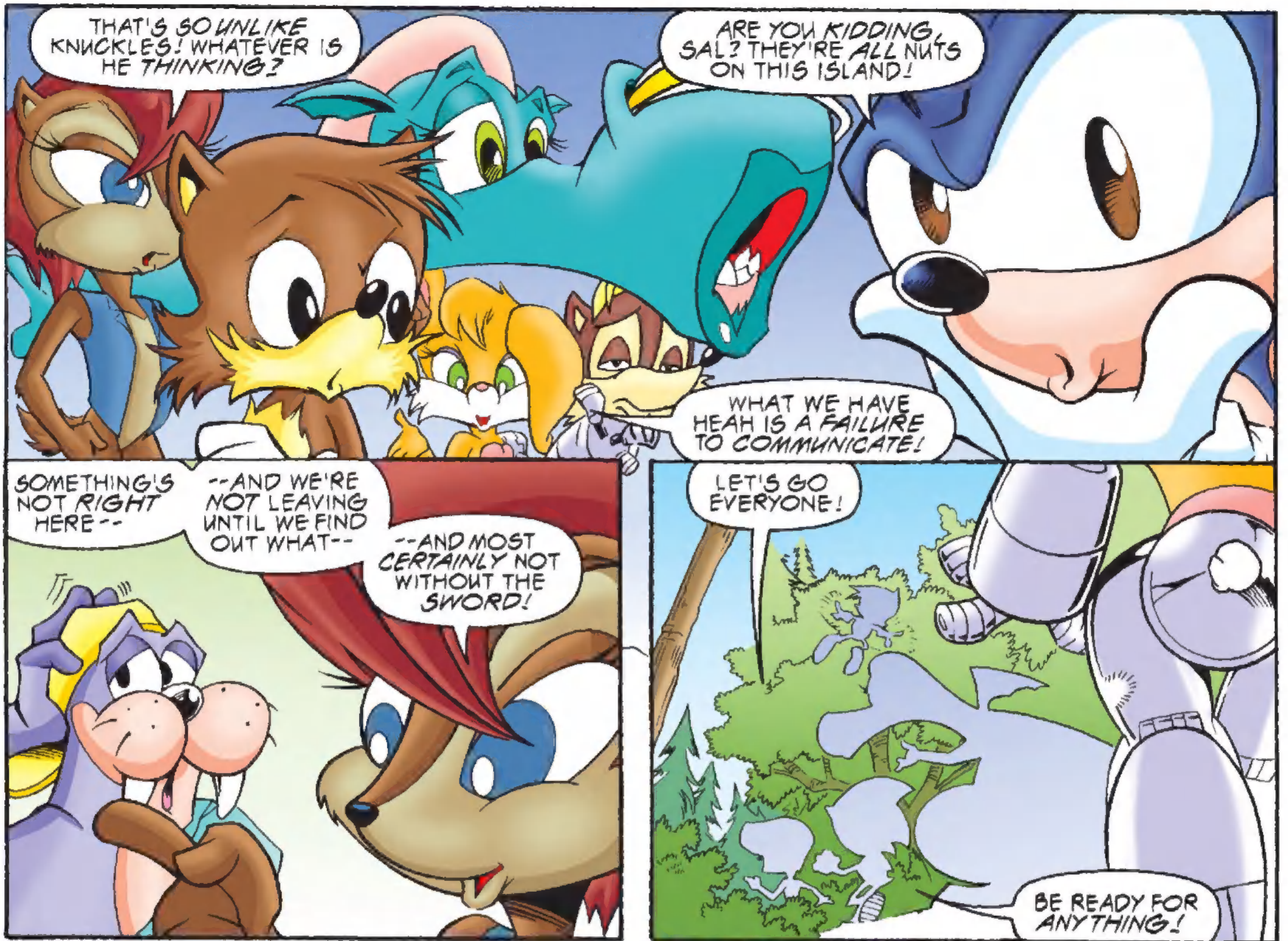
Rotor

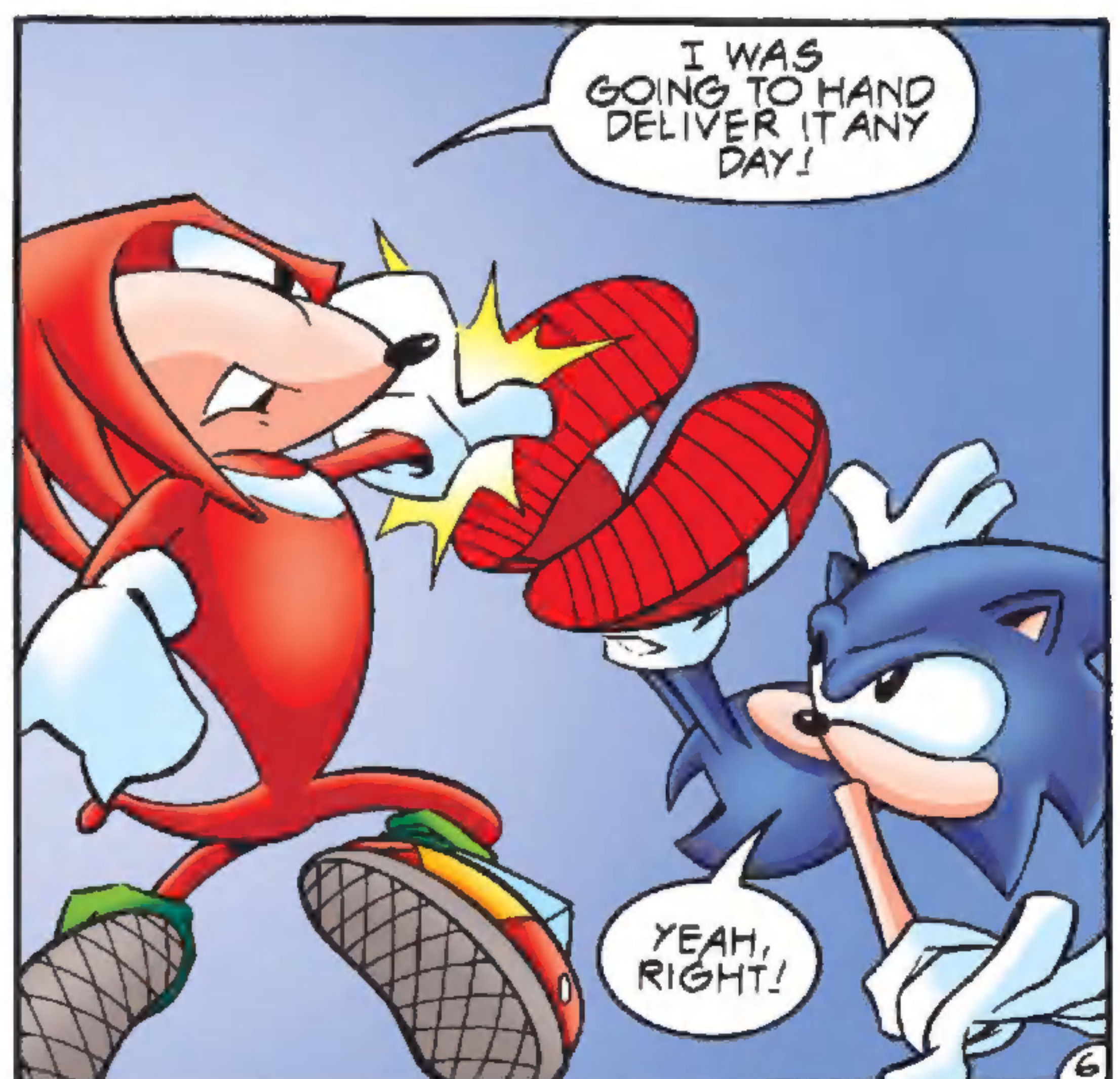
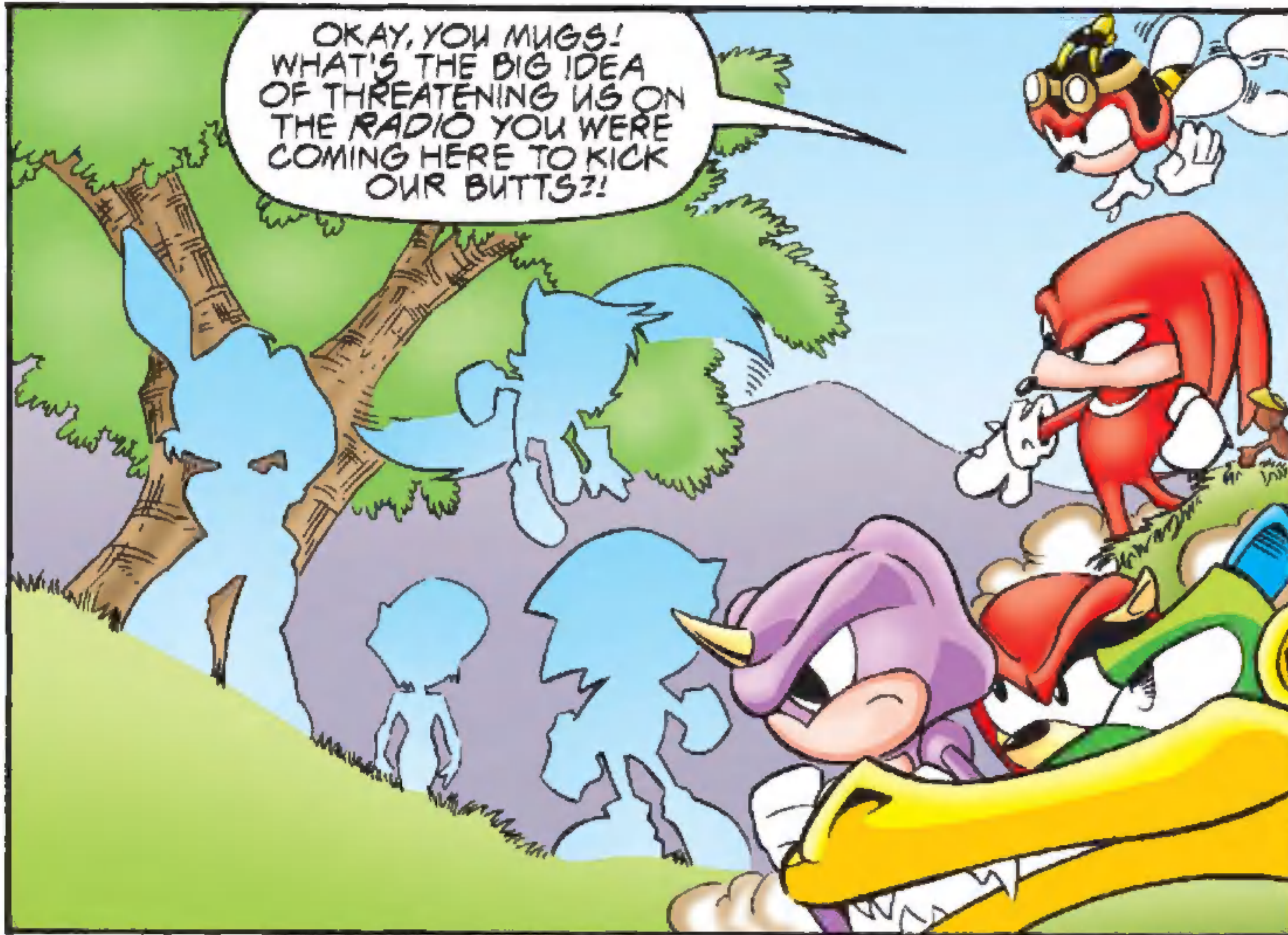
Antoine D'Coolette

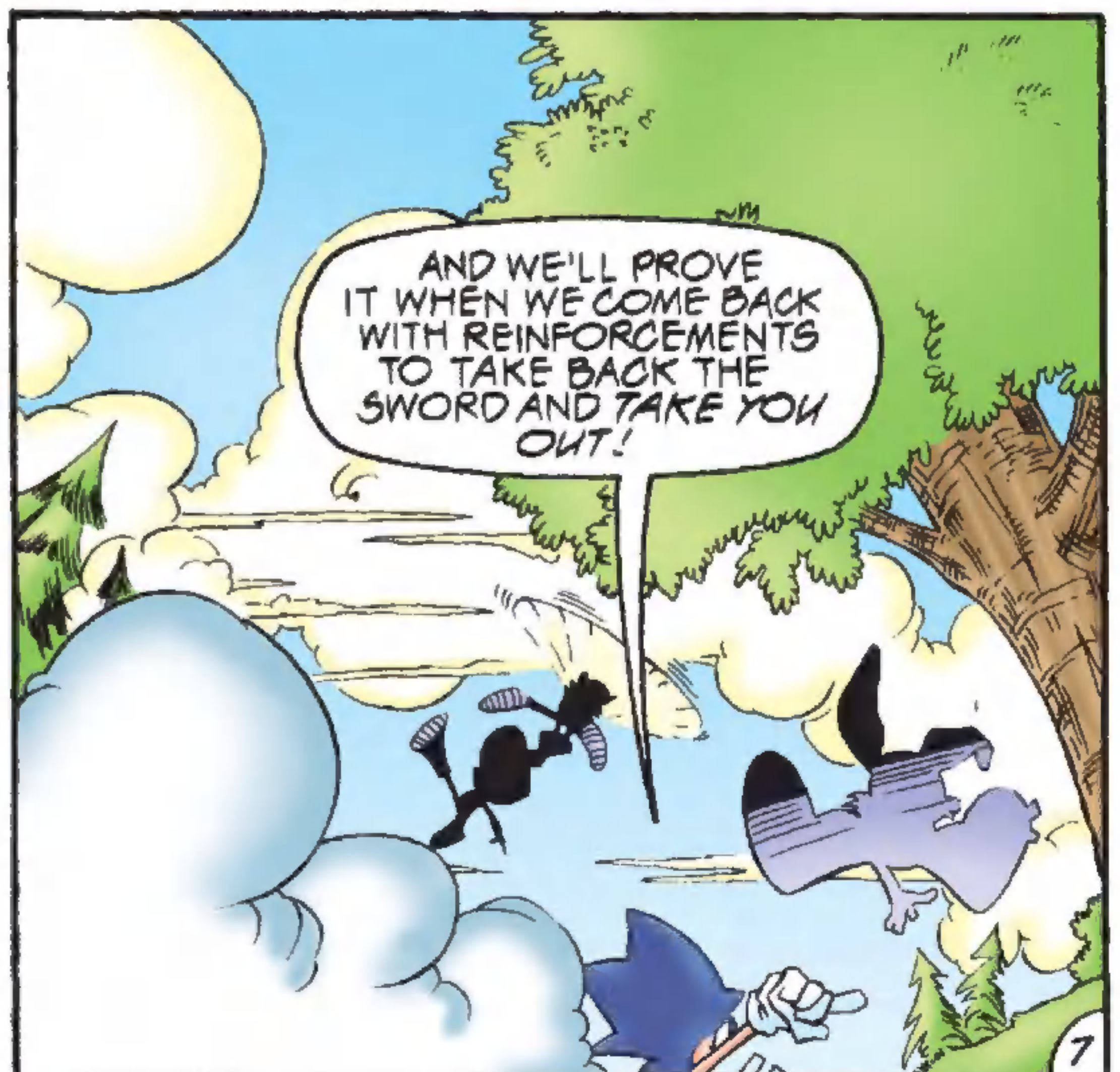
Bunnie Rabbot











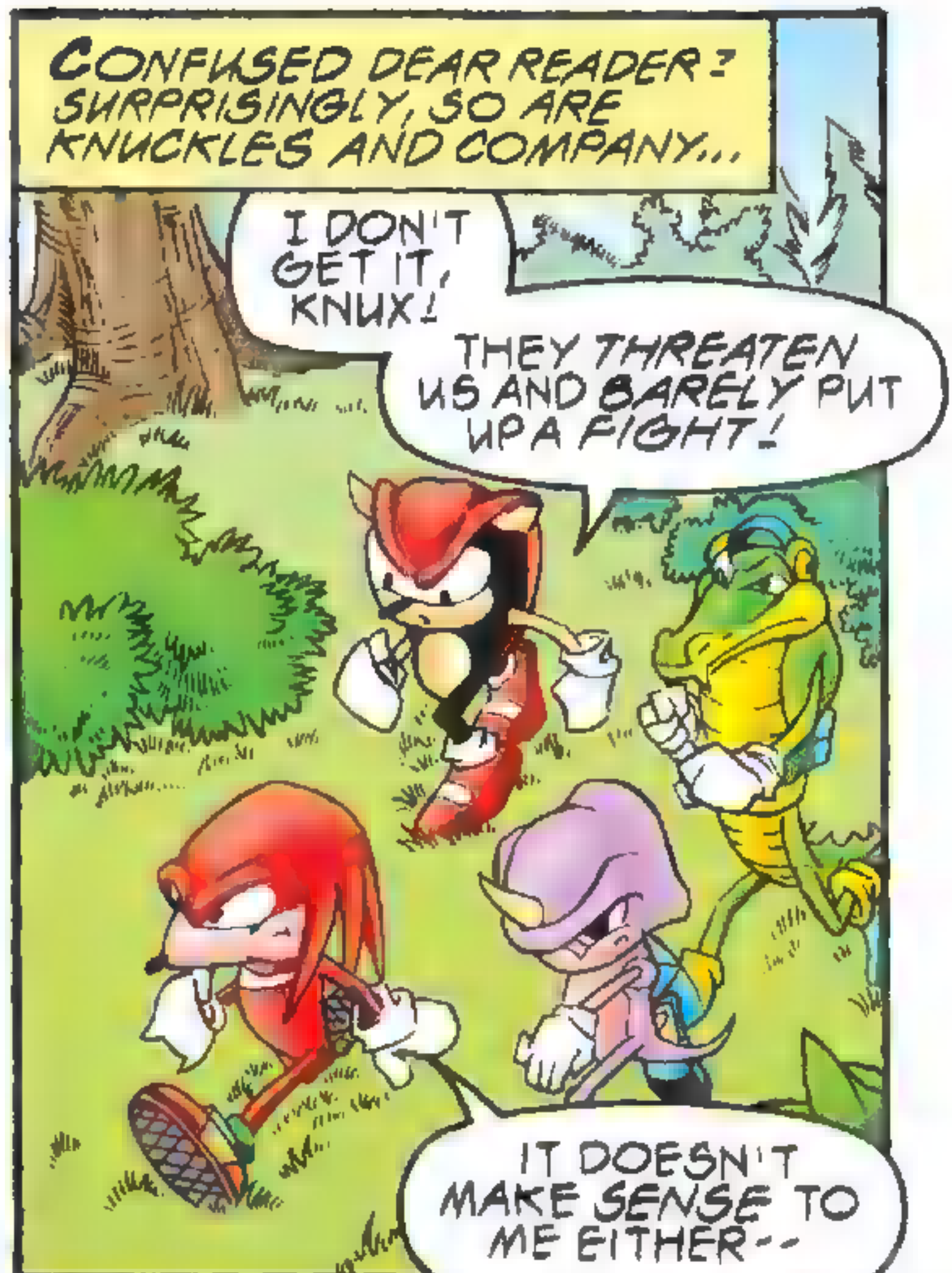


YOU THINK THAT CONVINCED THEM?

MORE THAN DID THE TRICK!

I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE REAL FUN TO START!

Heh Heh-- YEAH!



CONFUSED DEAR READER? SURPRISINGLY, SO ARE KNUCKLES AND COMPANY...

I DON'T GET IT, KNUX!

THEY THREATEN US AND BARELY PUT UP A FIGHT!

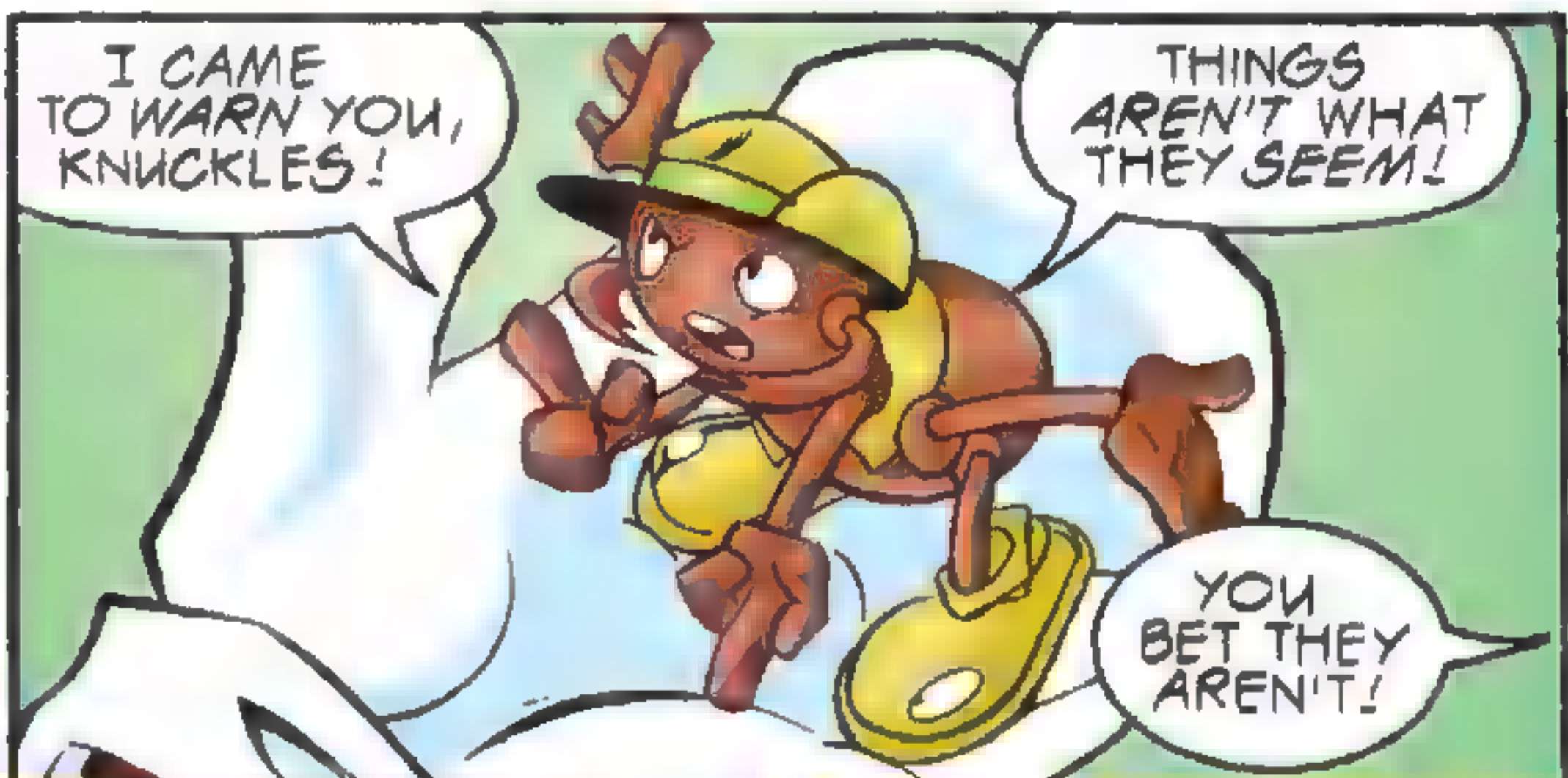
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO ME EITHER--



ARCHIMEDES!

BAM!

I HATE WHEN YOU DO THAT!



I CAME TO WARN YOU, KNUCKLES!

THINGS AREN'T WHAT THEY SEEM!

YOU BET THEY AREN'T!



AND WE'RE GONNA FIND OUT WHY-- RIGHT HERE-- RIGHT NOW!

END OF PART ONE.

BATTLE ROYAL

PART TWO



THIS IS IT, YOU FINKS!

I CAN SEE BOYS WILL BE BOYS!

THIS CALLS FOR SAFER HEADS!

IF THERE'S ONE THING I REALLY HATE--

--IT'S CHISELERS WHO GO BACK ON THEIR WORD!

YOU'VE LOST IT! YOU'VE TOTALLY LOST IT!

EITHER THAT-- OR YOU'VE ONE BIG DEATH WISH!

YOU CAN'T KICK US FREEDOM FIGHTERS AROUND AND GET AWAY WITH IT!

SONIC! WAIT!

OH, THIS IS HOPELESS!

YO, BOY! YOU BE THE ONE WHO DISSED US FIRST!



THIS IS PATHETIC!

G'WAN BACK TO YOUR PLAYPEN, KID!

WHO ARE YOU CALLING "KID"?!?

IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU BOYS, AH'D RATHAH MAKE LOVE, NOT WAR!

SEEMS TO ME YOU'VE A FUNNY WAY OF SHOWING IT!



HEY! NO FAIR! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO SEE YOU?

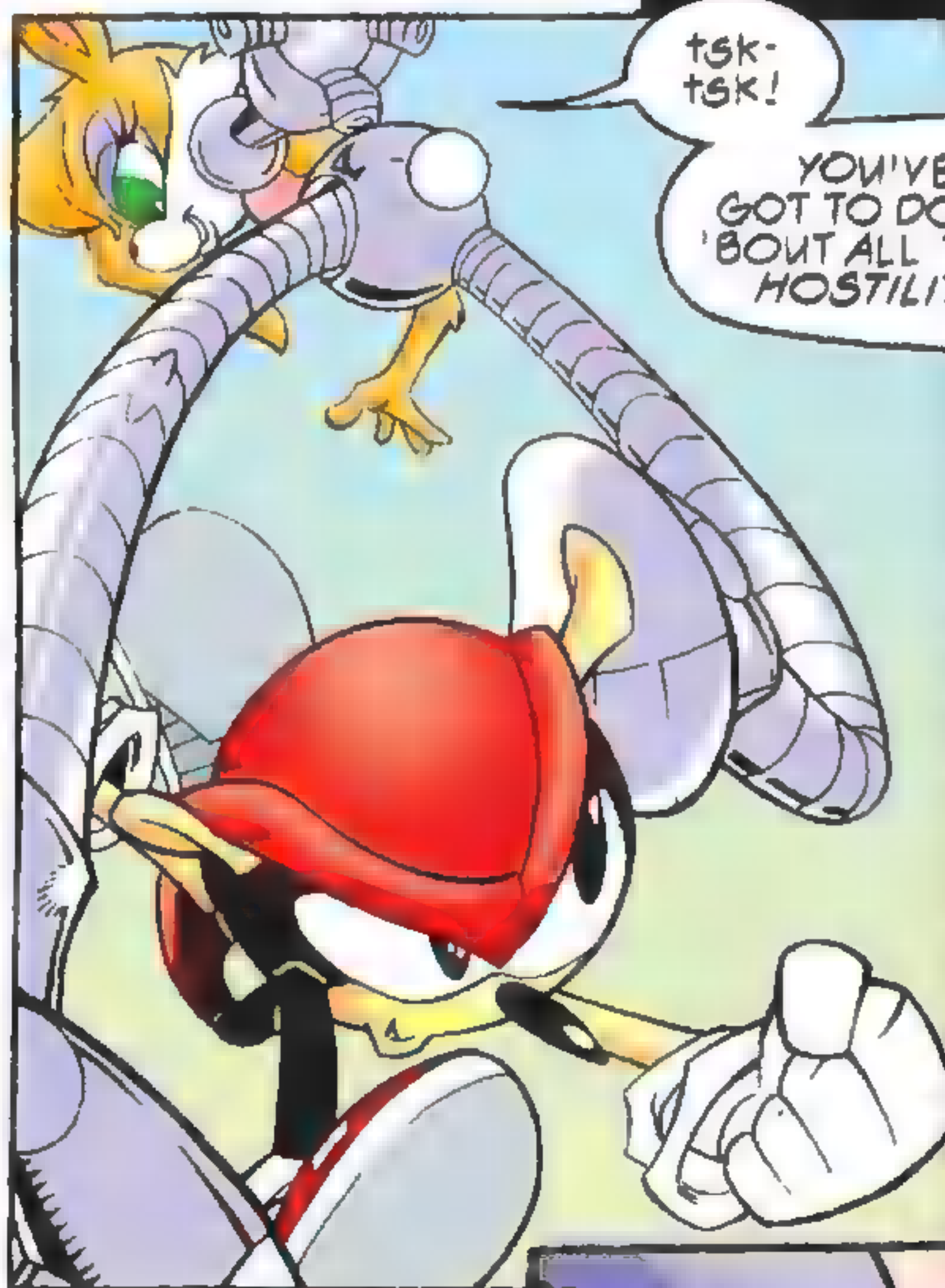
GET REAL!

WHAT IN LIFE IS FAIR THESE DAYS?



MY FRIENDS, THAT'S WHAT!

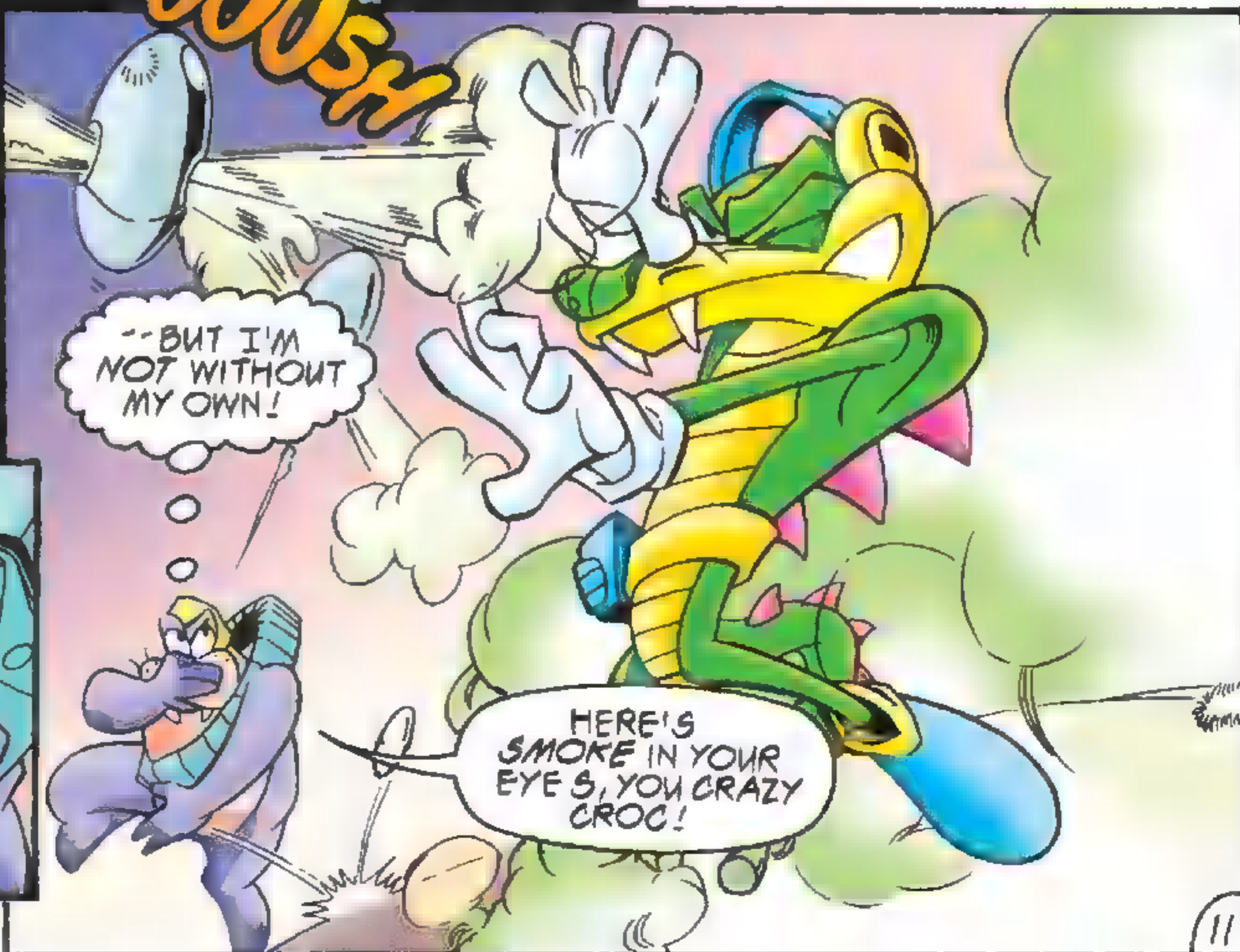
WHOA! THAT WAS CLOSE!



tsk-
tsk!

YOU'VE REALLY GOT TO DO SOMETHIN' 'BOUT ALL THAT PENT-UP HOSTILITY, SUH-GAH!

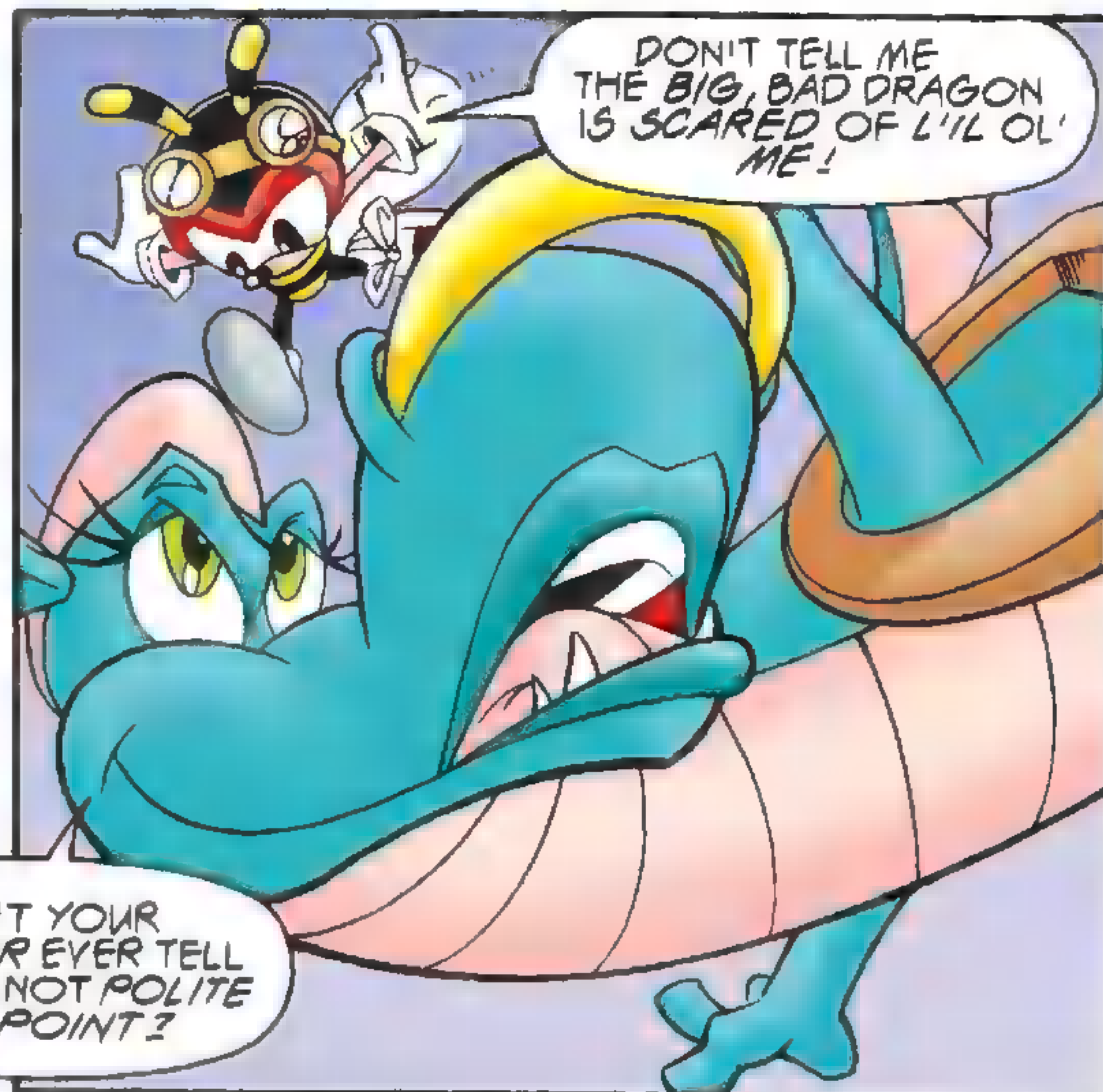
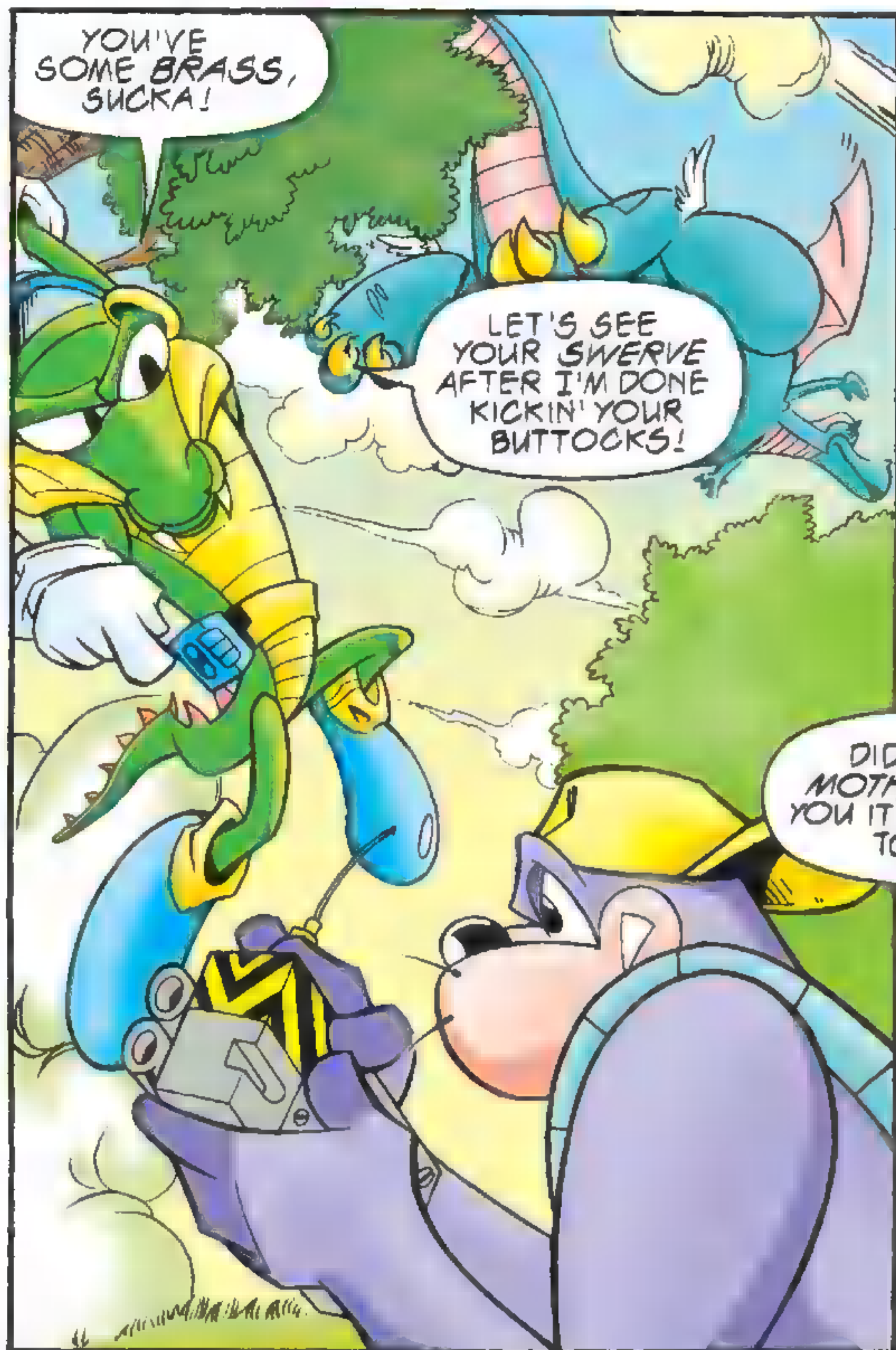
K-TOOOOSH

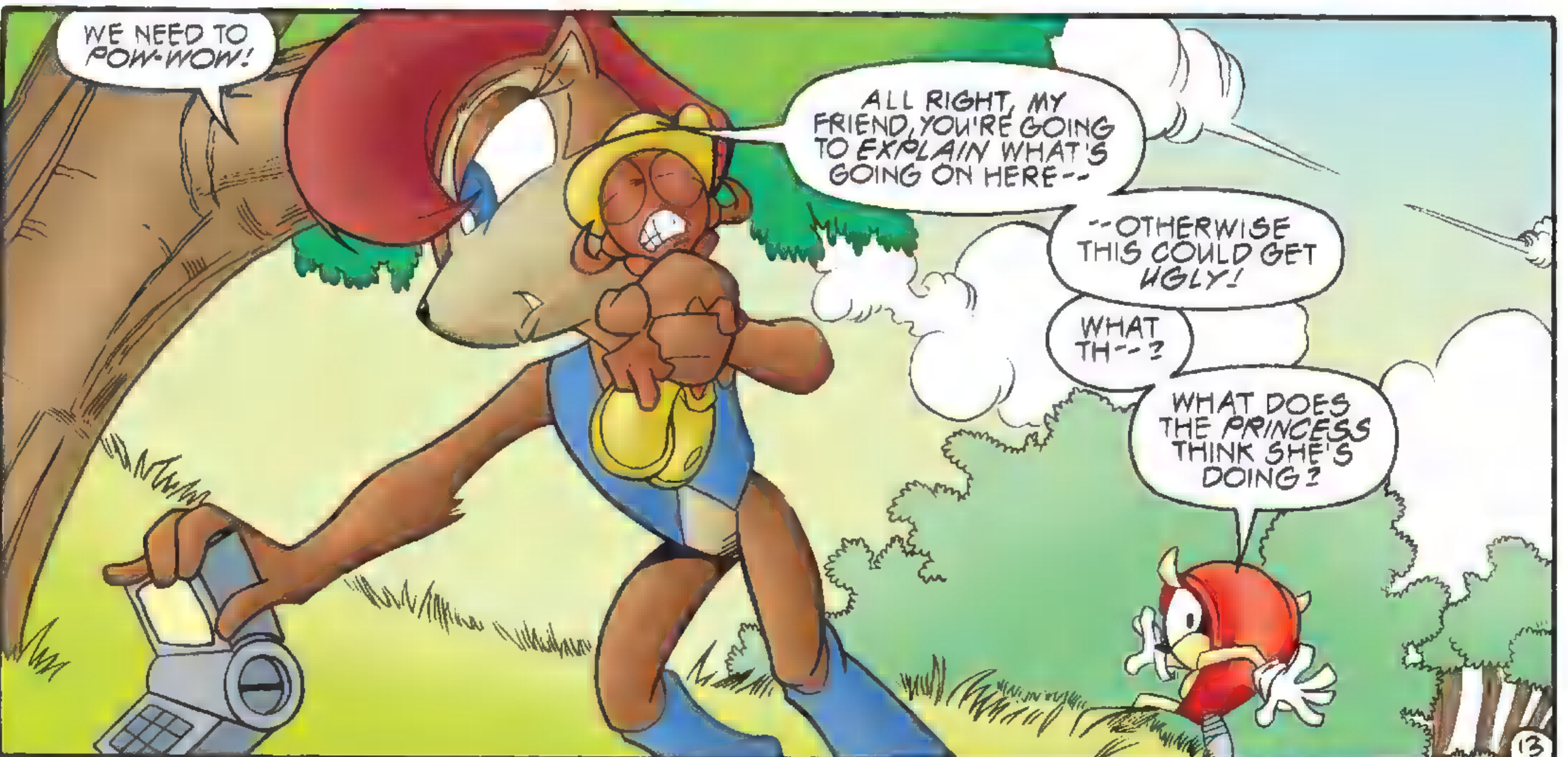
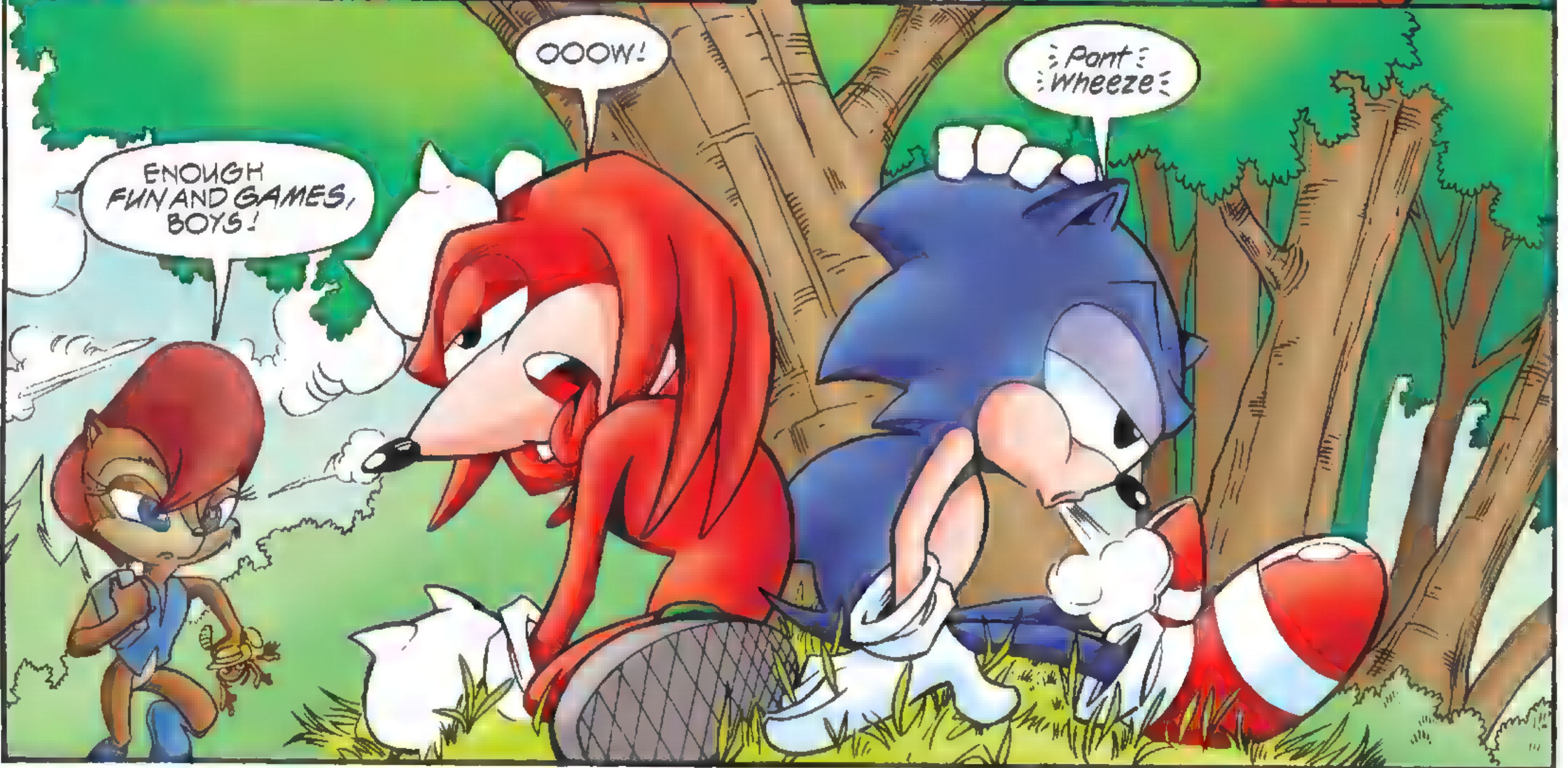


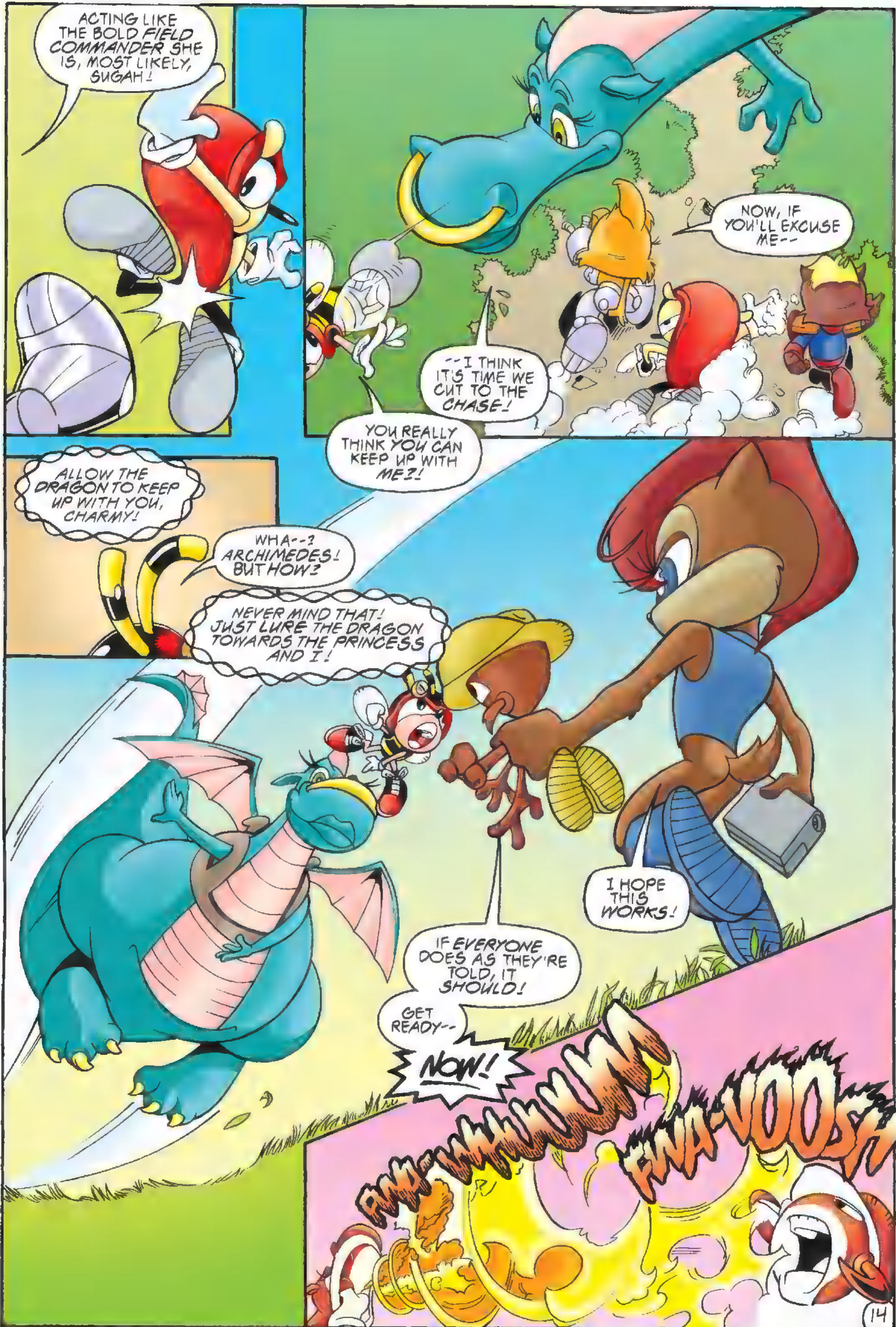
--BUT I'M NOT WITHOUT MY OWN!

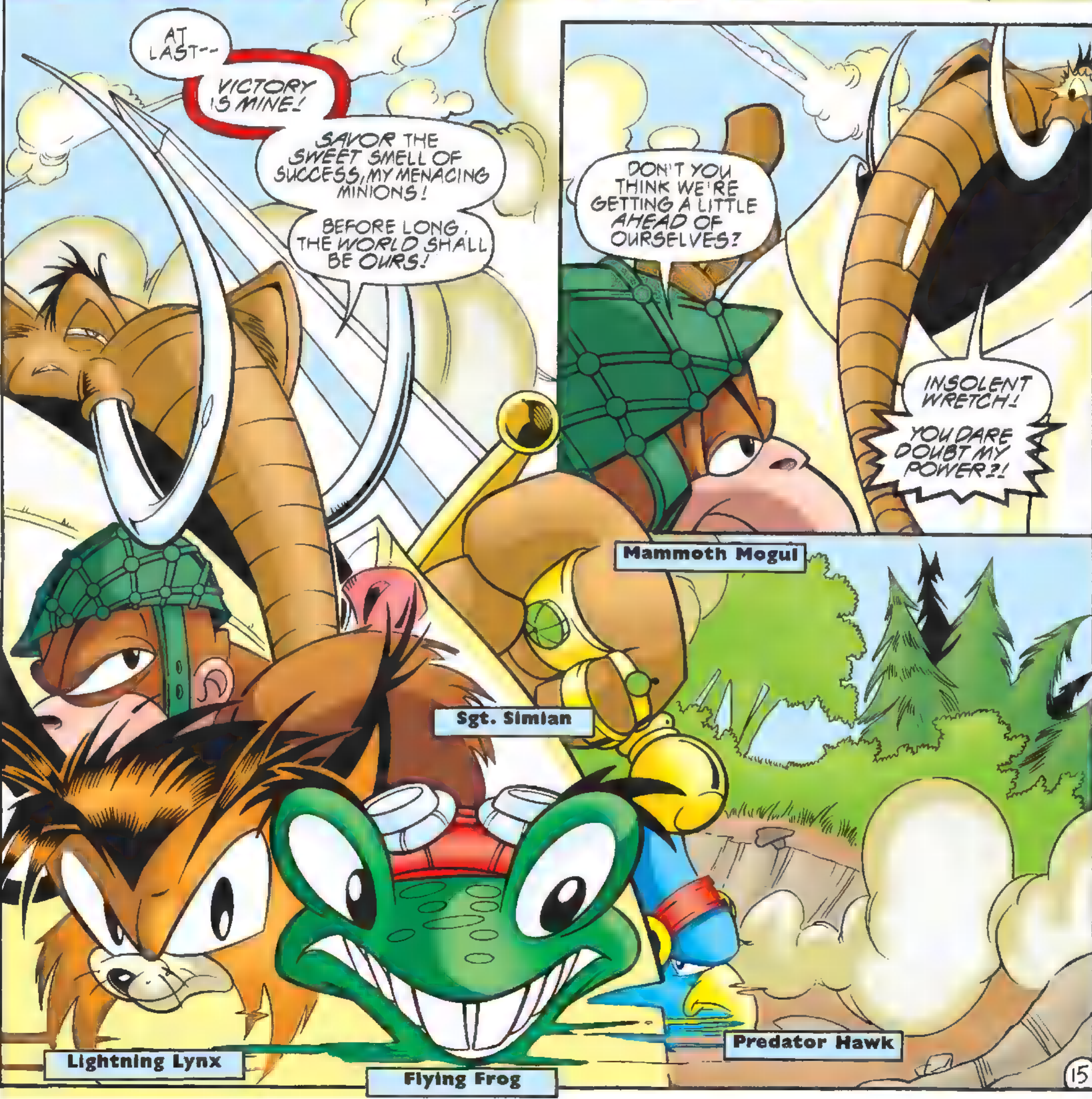
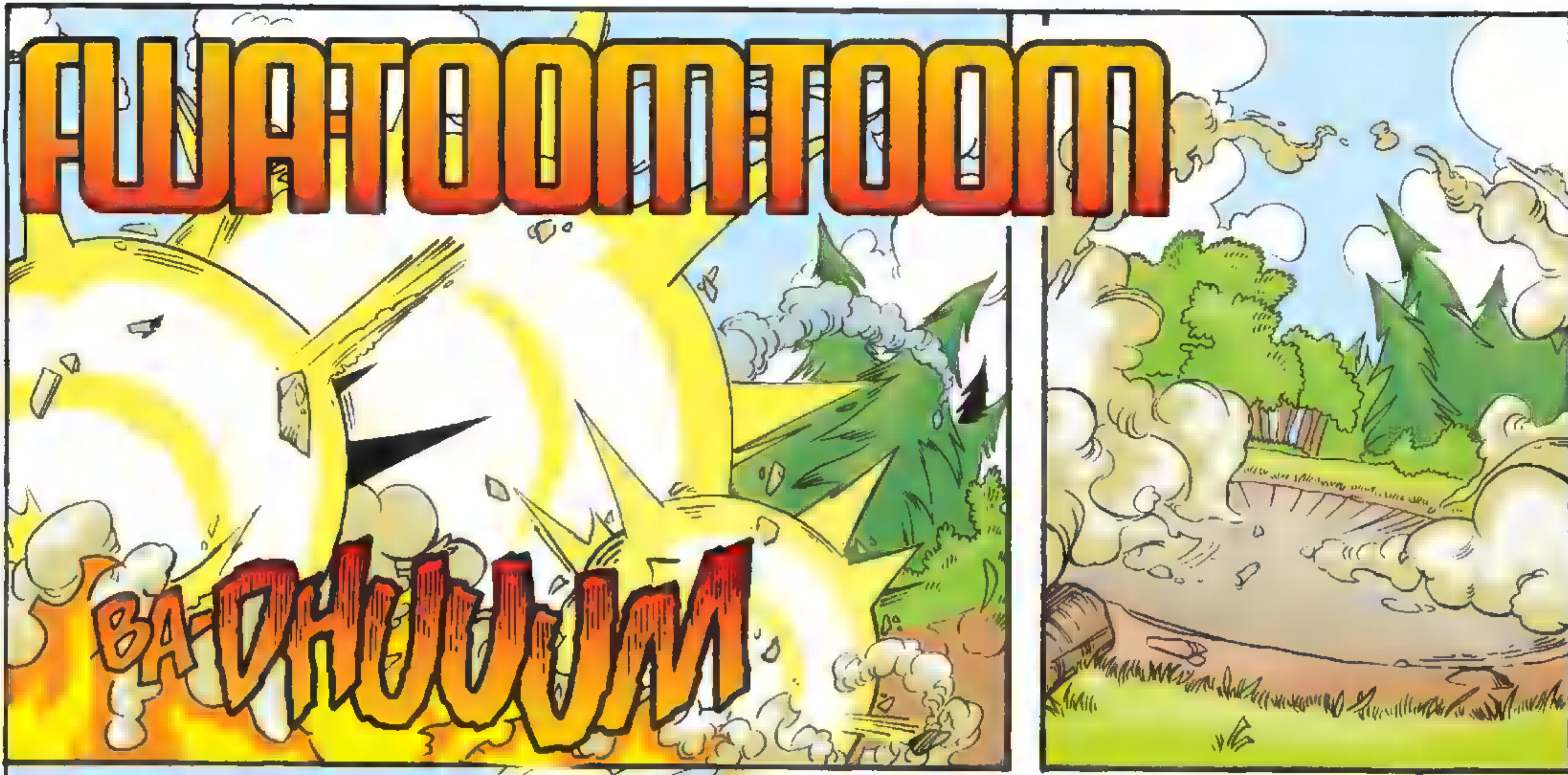
HERE'S SMOKE IN YOUR EYES, YOU CRAZY CROC!

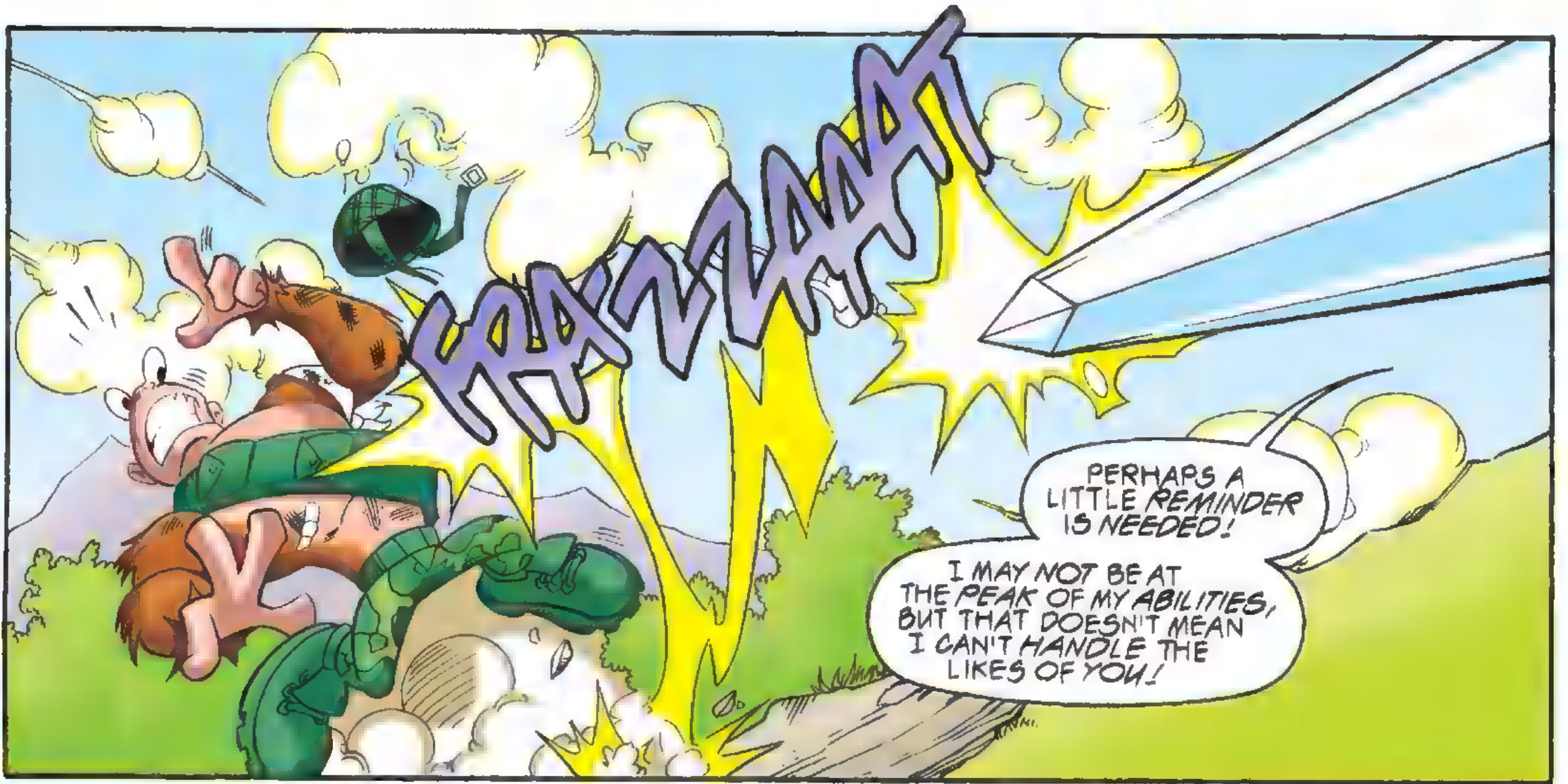
TAILS AND BUNNIE MIGHT HAVE THEIR OWN SPECIAL ABILITIES--





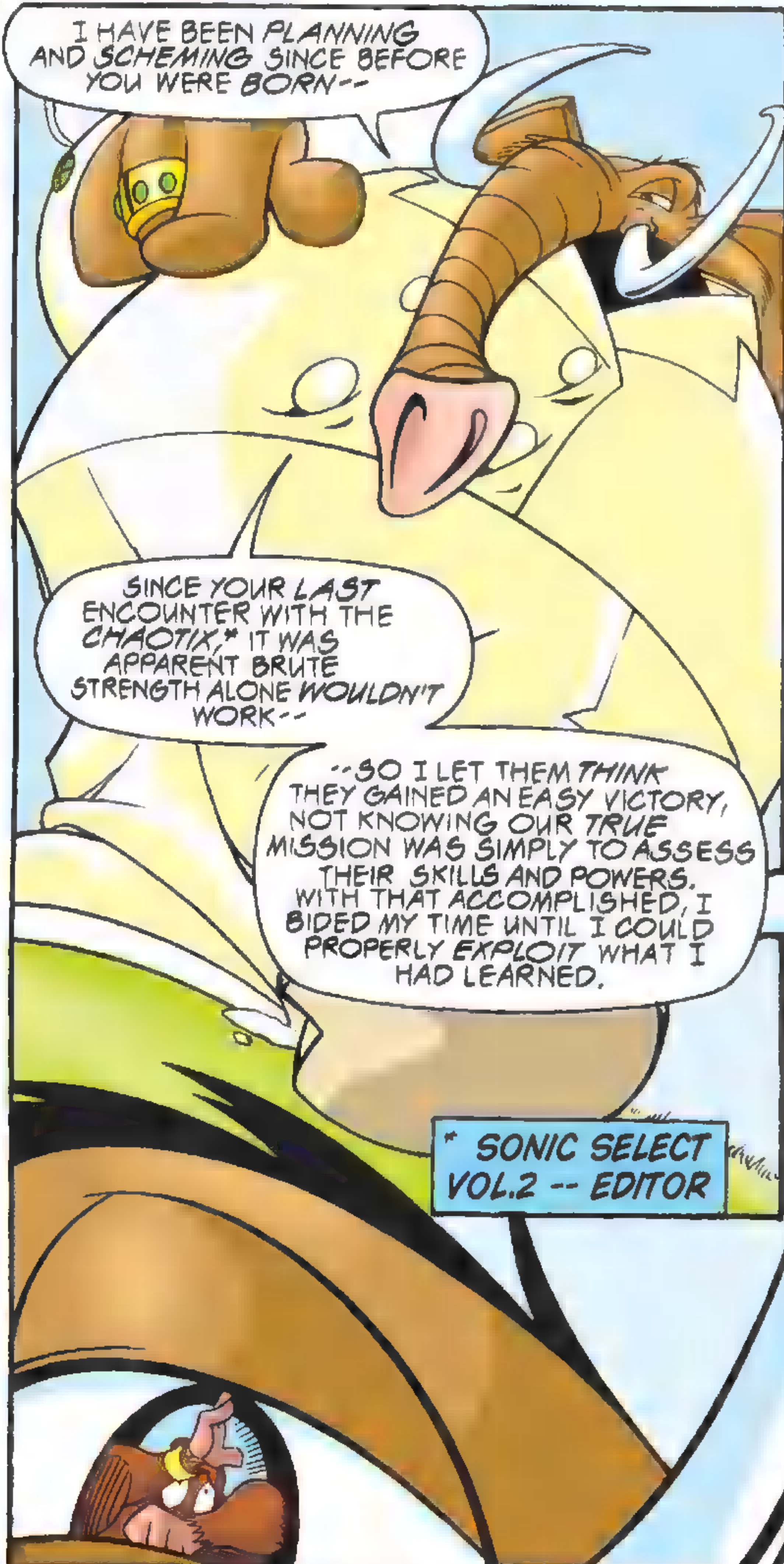






PERHAPS A
LITTLE REMINDER
IS NEEDED!

I MAY NOT BE AT
THE PEAK OF MY ABILITIES,
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN
I CAN'T HANDLE THE
LIKES OF YOU!

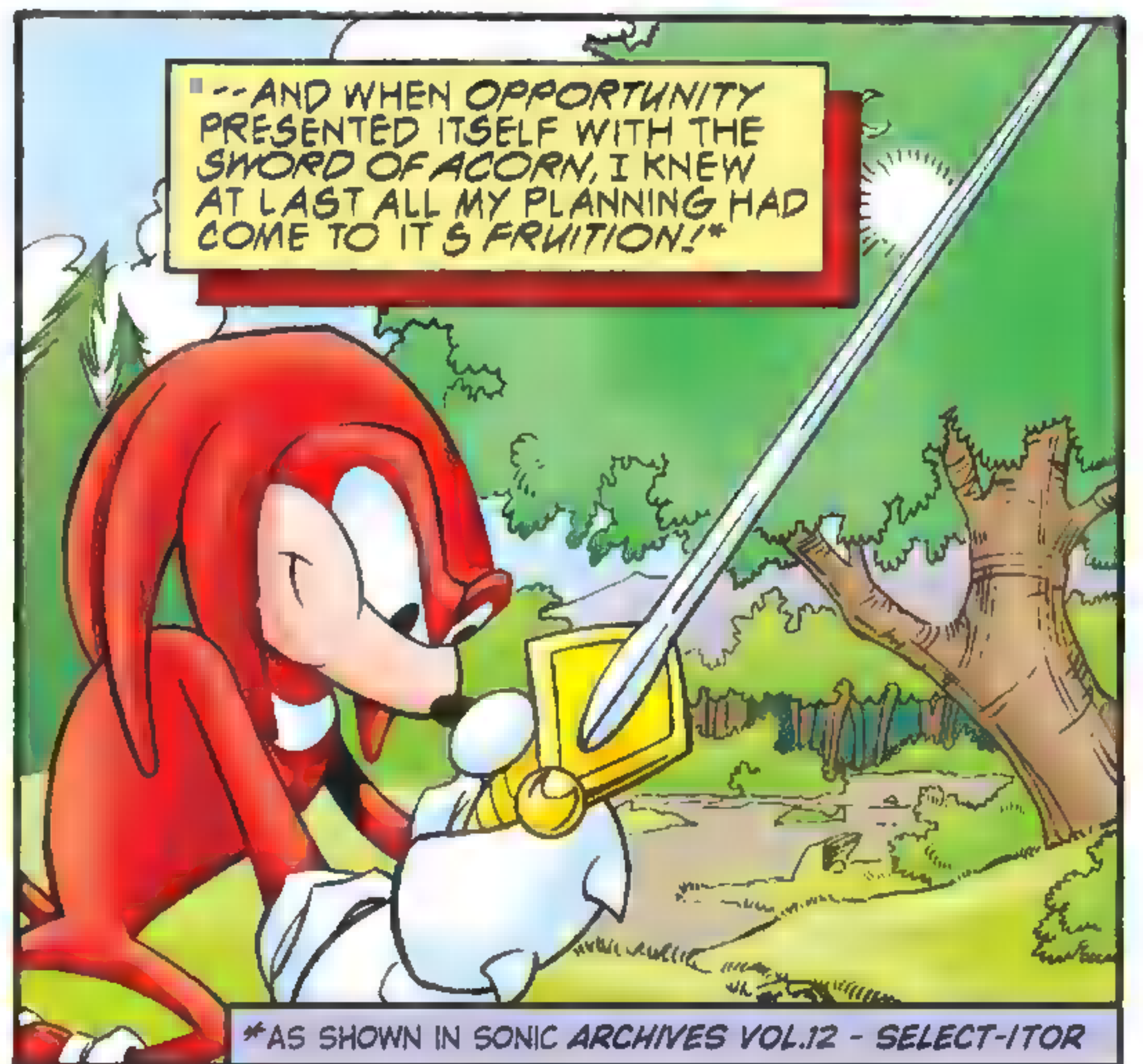


I HAVE BEEN PLANNING
AND SCHEMING SINCE BEFORE
YOU WERE BORN--

SINCE YOUR LAST
ENCOUNTER WITH THE
CHAOTIX,* IT WAS
APPARENT BRUTE
STRENGTH ALONE WOULDN'T
WORK--

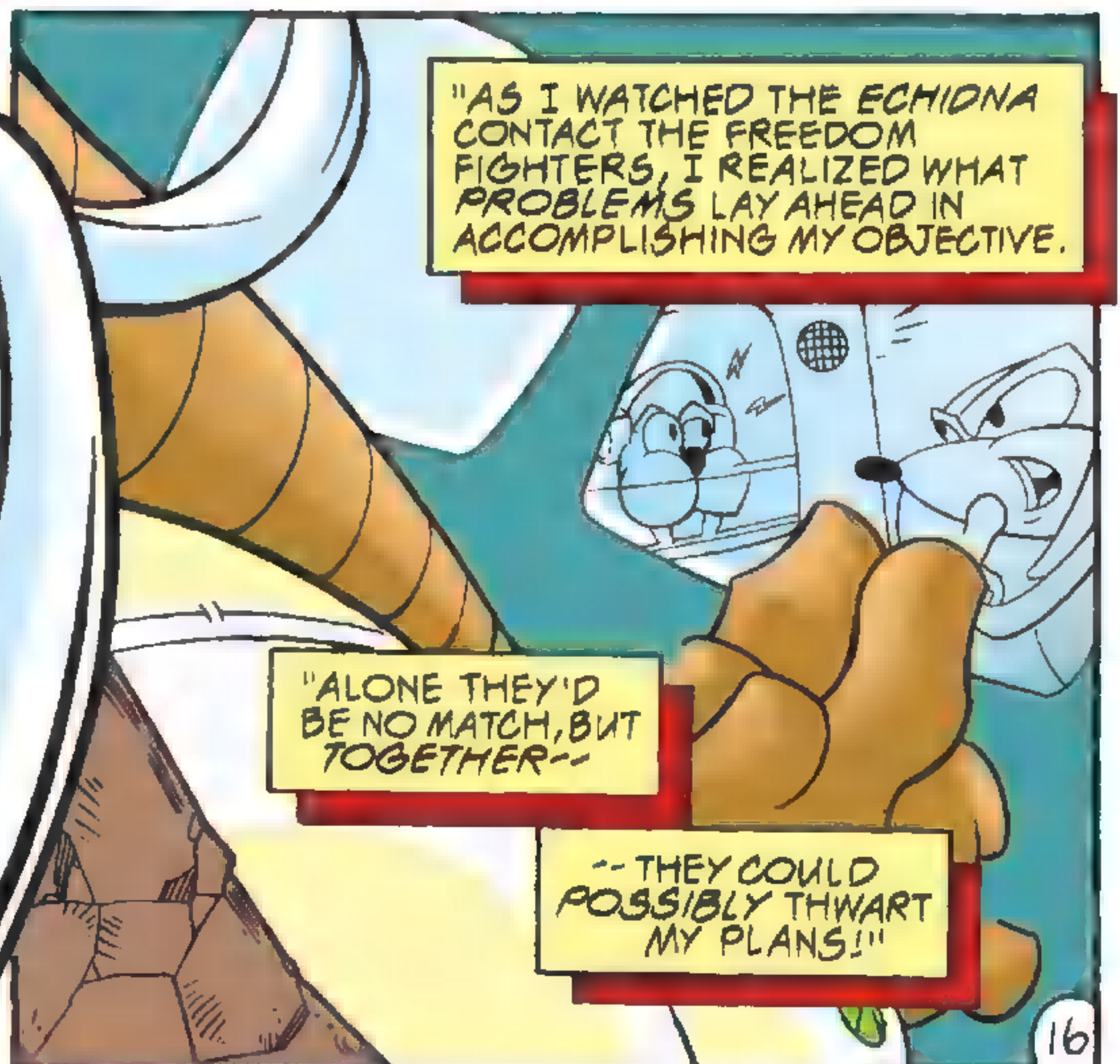
--SO I LET THEM THINK
THEY GAINED AN EASY VICTORY,
NOT KNOWING OUR TRUE
MISSION WAS SIMPLY TO ASSESS
THEIR SKILLS AND POWERS.
WITH THAT ACCOMPLISHED, I
BID MY TIME UNTIL I COULD
PROPERLY EXPLOIT WHAT I
HAD LEARNED.

* SONIC SELECT
VOL.2 -- EDITOR



"--AND WHEN OPPORTUNITY
PRESENTED ITSELF WITH THE
SWORD OF ACORN, I KNEW
AT LAST ALL MY PLANNING HAD
COME TO ITS FRUITION!*

*AS SHOWN IN SONIC ARCHIVES VOL.12 - SELECT-ITOR



"AS I WATCHED THE ECHIDNA
CONTACT THE FREEDOM
FIGHTERS, I REALIZED WHAT
PROBLEMS LAY AHEAD IN
ACCOMPLISHING MY OBJECTIVE.

"ALONE THEY'D
BE NO MATCH, BUT
TOGETHER--

-- THEY COULD
POSSIBLY THWART
MY PLANS!"

"THAT'S WHY I SEIZED THE MOMENT
MAKING USE OF MY VAST PSYCHIC
ABILITIES TO ALTER THE REALITIES
OF MY UNWITTING PAWNS..."

"WHAT NEITHER THE WALRUS
OR ECHIDNA REALIZED WAS
THAT THEY WERE WATCHING
IMAGES GENERATED THROUGH
MY THOUGHTWAVES..."

I CONTROL
THE HORIZONTAL--
I CONTROL THE
VERTICAL--

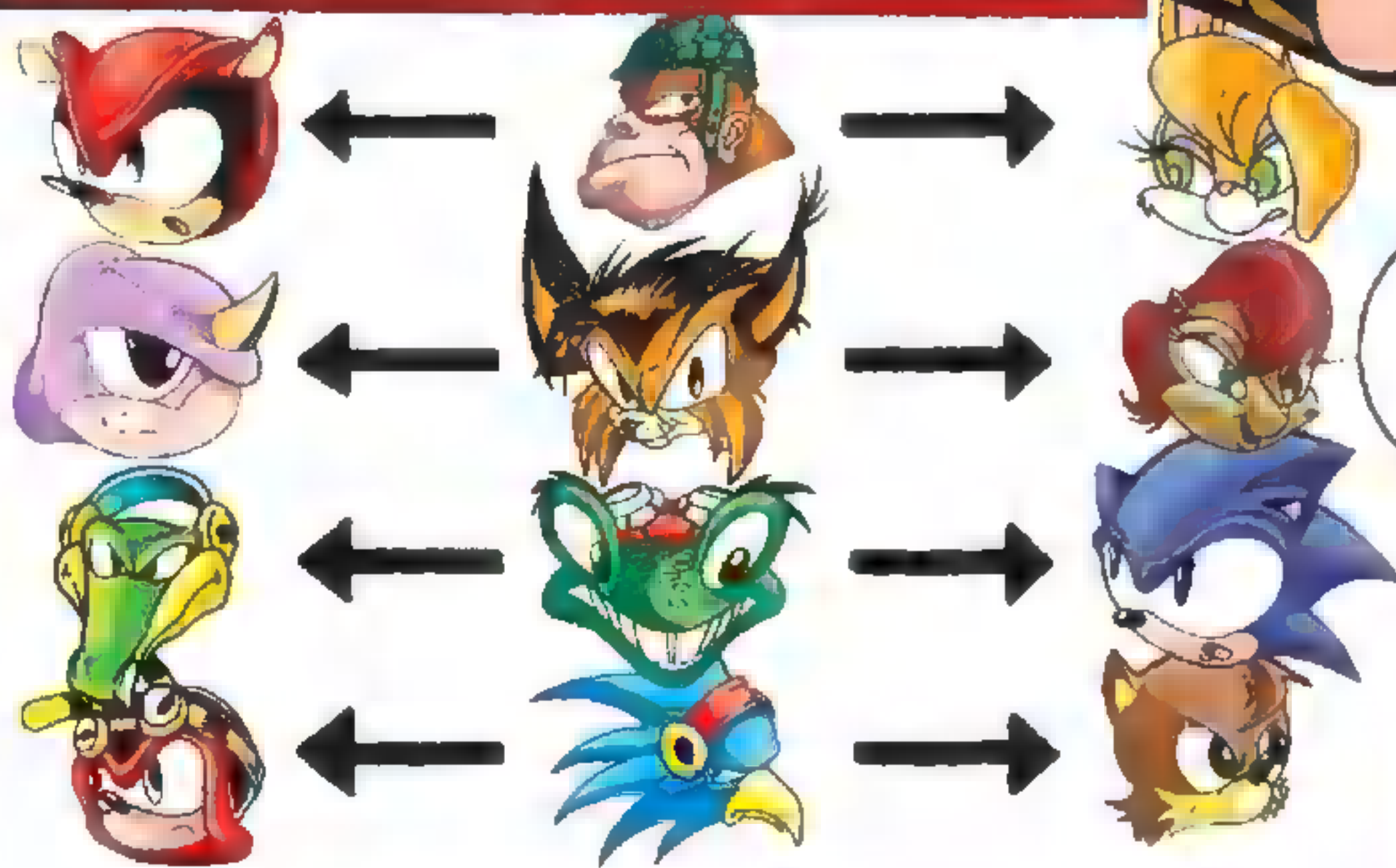
--AND THE ISLAND'S
UNDER SIEGE AGAIN, SO
FOR NOW...WE'RE KEEPING
THE SWORD!

HOLD FAST!
WE'RE ON OUR WAY
TO HELP!

... AND YOU'VE TAKEN
TOO LONG TO RETURN
THE SWORD-- WE'RE
COMING FOR IT AND
YOU!

WHAT ARE
YOU JABBERING
ABOUT?

"THERE WAS STILL DANGER THAT COOLER
HEADS WOULD PREVAIL, SO I CREATED THE
ILLUSION OF THE FEARSOME FOURSOME
AS MEMBERS OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS
AND THE CHAOTIX, IN ORDER TO FAN THE
FLAMES OF MISTRUST BETWEEN THE
OPPOSING SIDES..."

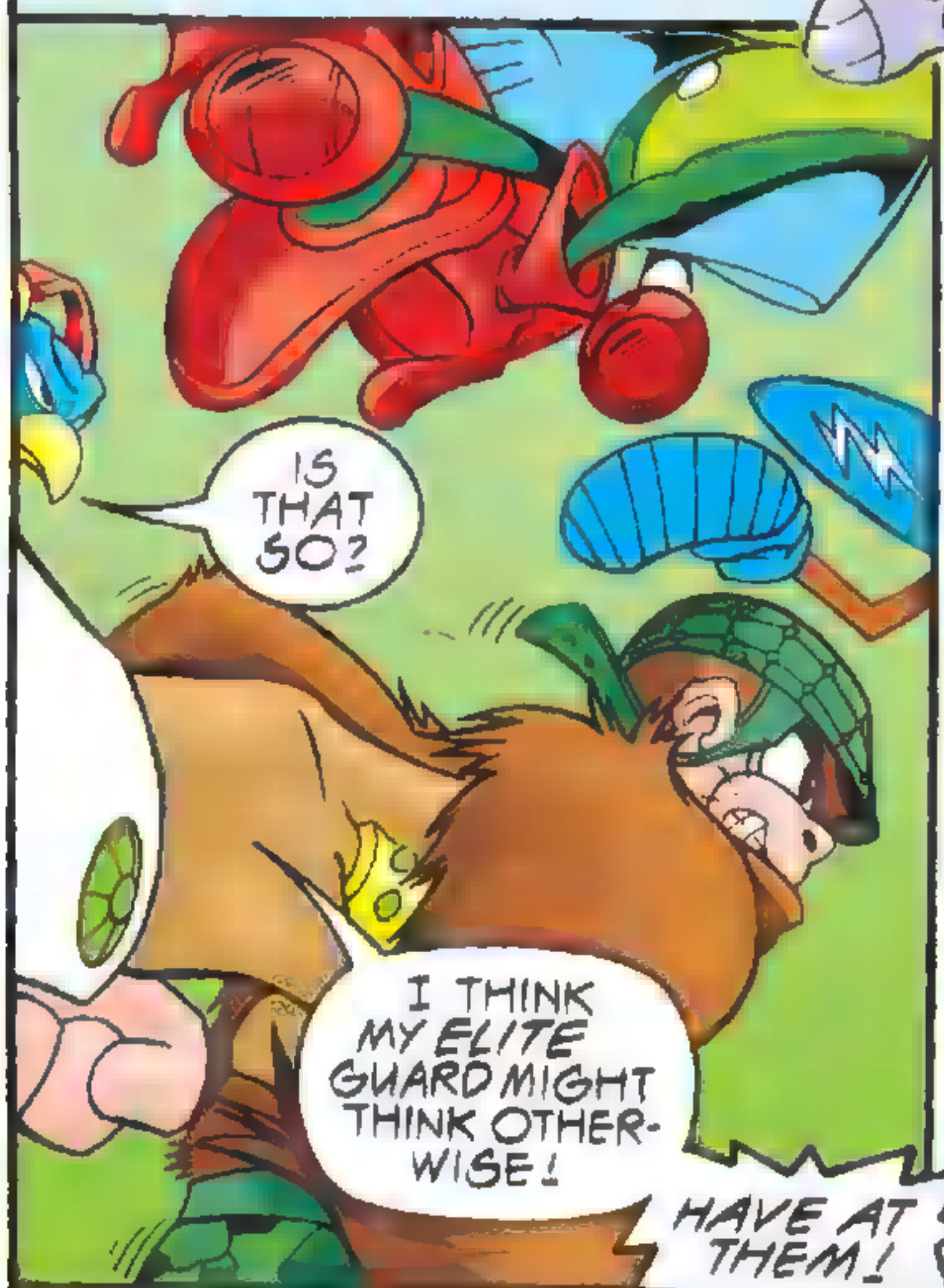


"HAVING BAITED THE HEDGEHOG AND
FRIENDS, WE THEN MADE THE CHAOTIX
BELIEVE THE WORST CONCERNING THE
FREEDOM FIGHTERS--

--ALLOWING US
TO WATCH FROM THE
SIDELINES WHILE
THEY BATTLED AMONGST
THEMSELVES!

YEP! THAT
WAS QUITE
THE PLAN,
MAN!

THAT
VOICE--!





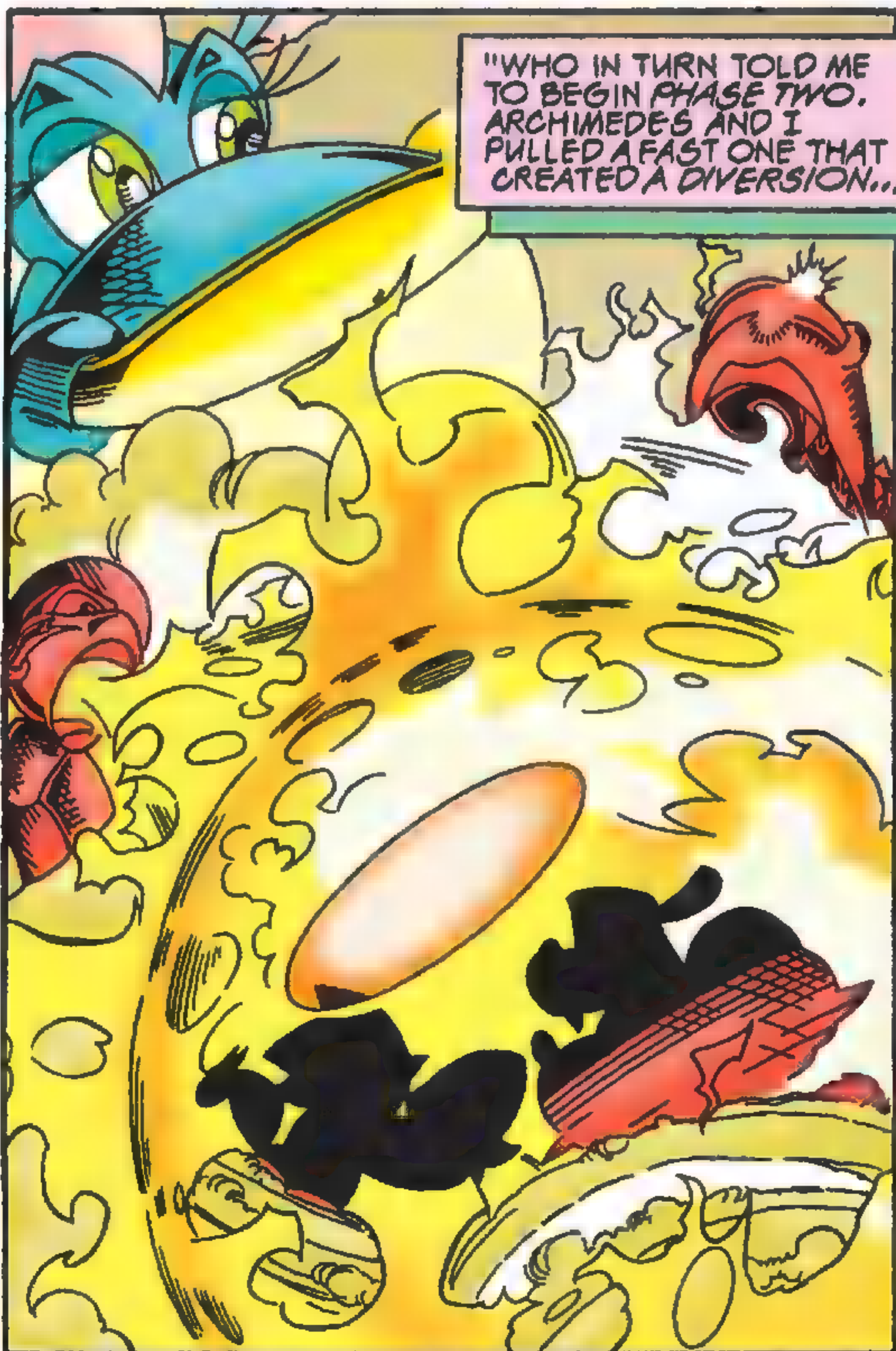
"YOU SAID IT YOURSELF--
'COOLER HEADS MIGHT
PREVAIL'! ARCHIMEDES
AND I KNEW SOMETHING
STUNK HERE..."

...AND BELIEVING THE
REAL ENEMY TO BE
WATCHING, WE PUT ON
A LITTLE PERFORMANCE
TO COVER OUR PLAN!"



"USING POWERS
YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T
KNOW ARCHIMEDES
HAS*, HE COVERTLY
CONTACTED CHARMY
TO BEGIN PHASE
ONE..."

*TELEPATHY MAYBE?-- EDITOR



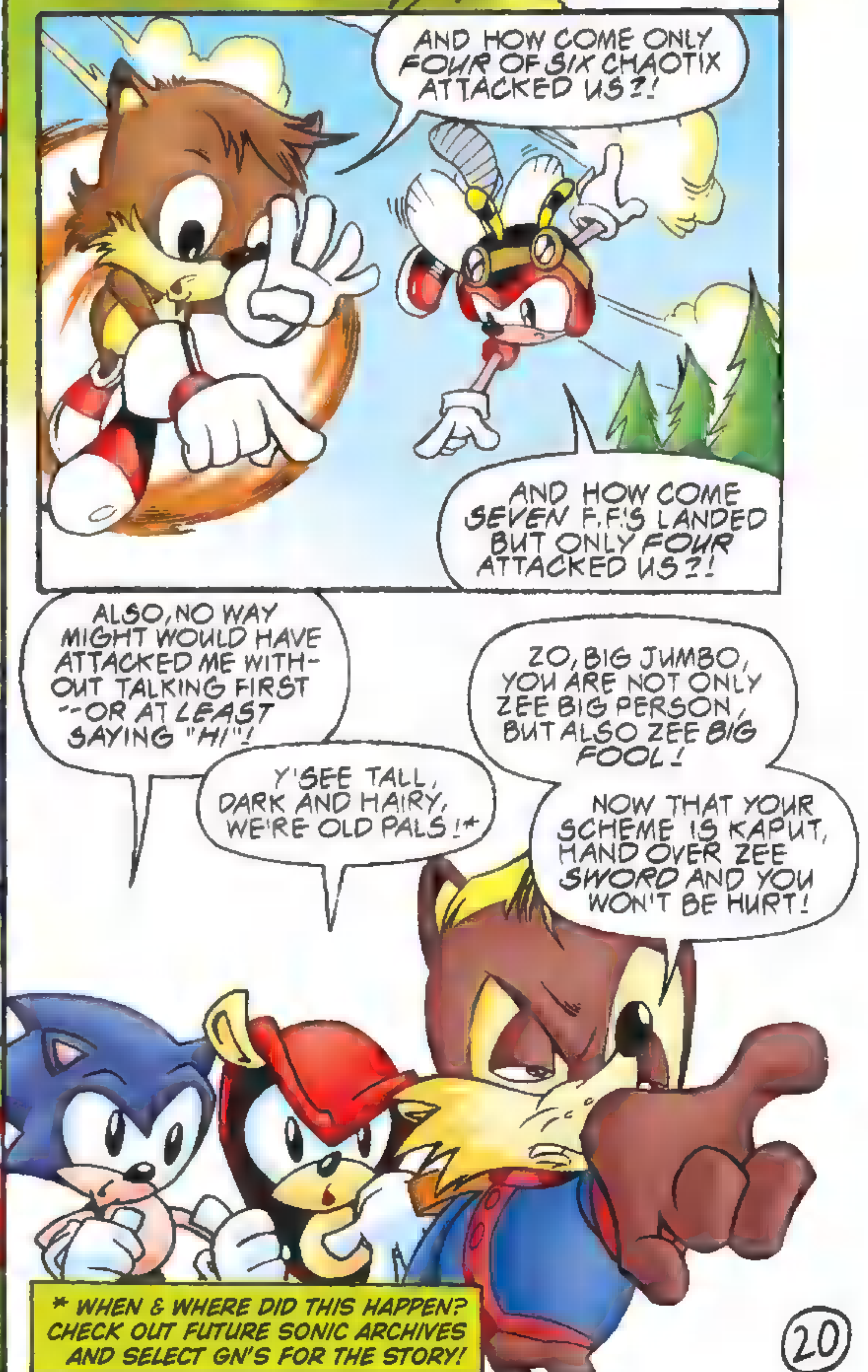
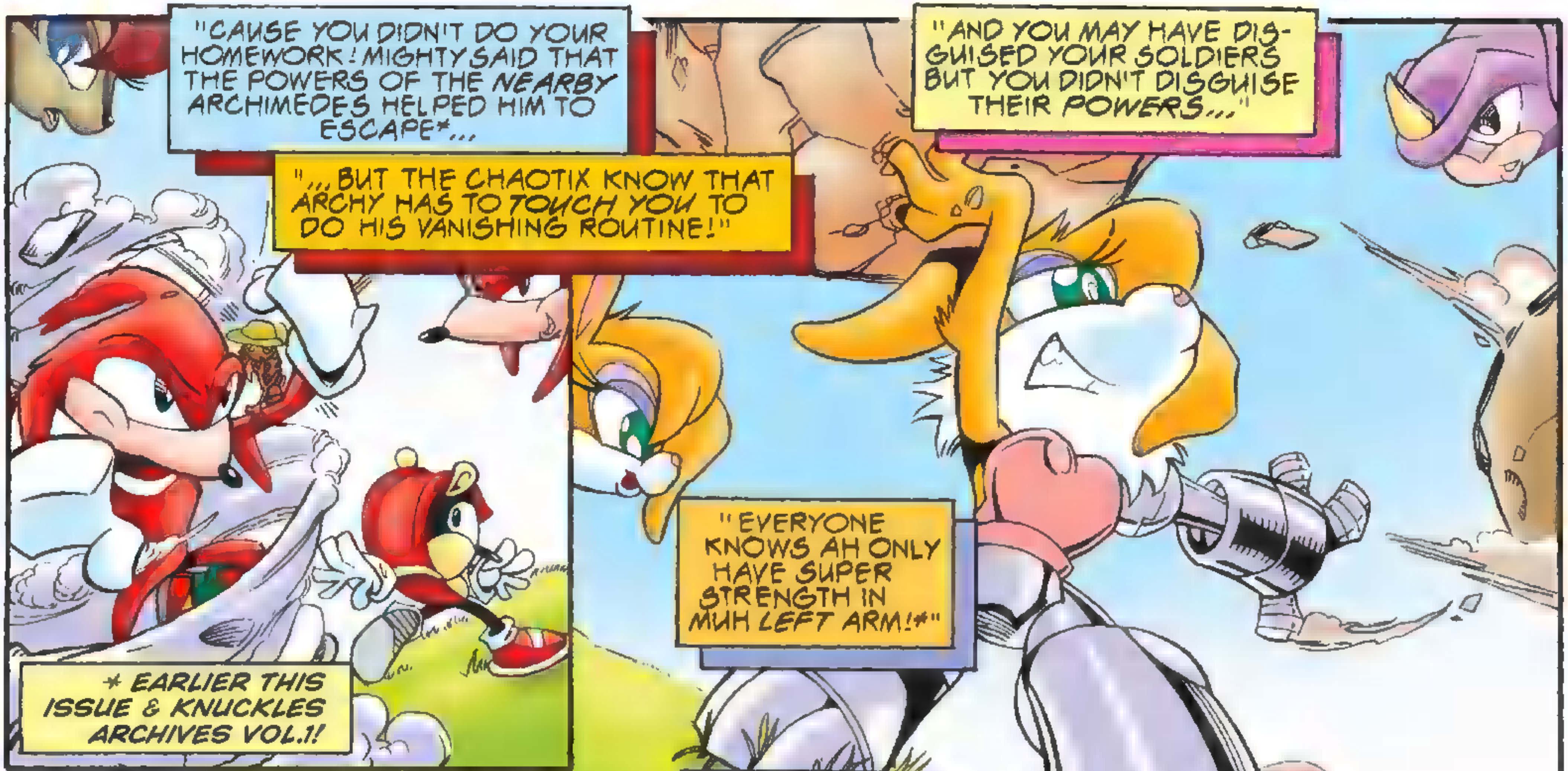
"WHO IN TURN TOLD ME
TO BEGIN PHASE TWO.
ARCHIMEDES AND I
PULLED A FAST ONE THAT
CREATED A DIVERSION..."

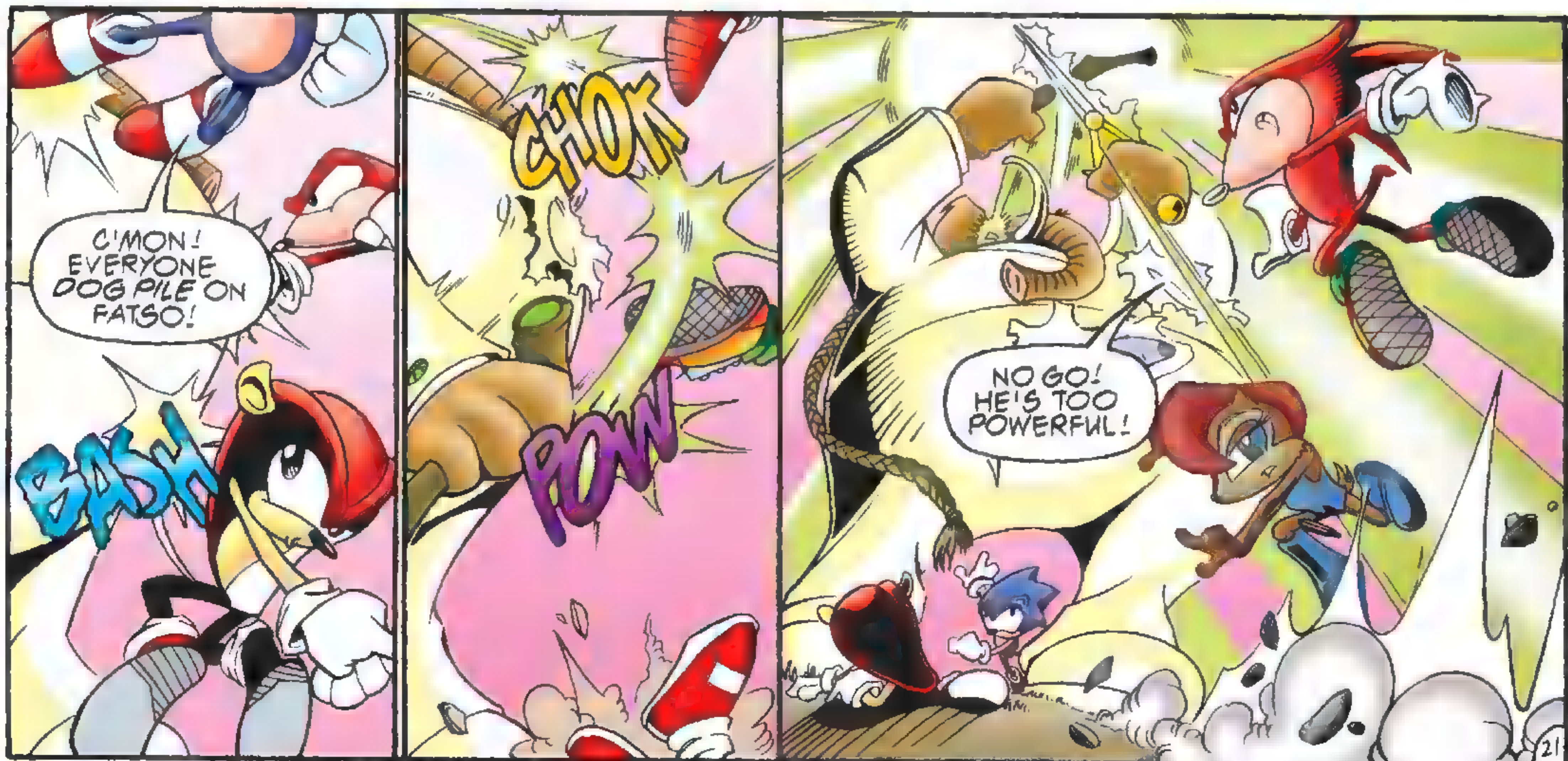
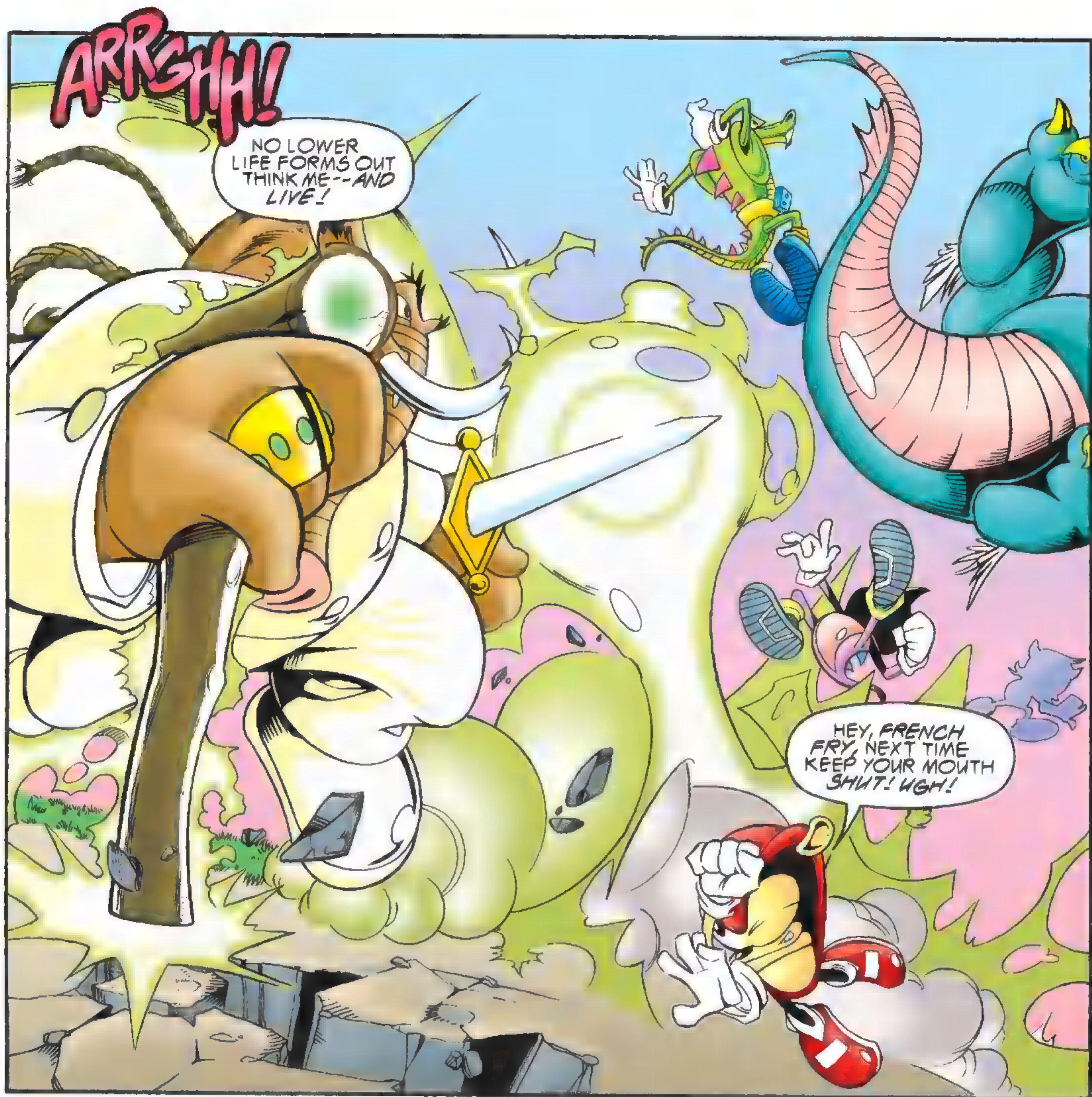


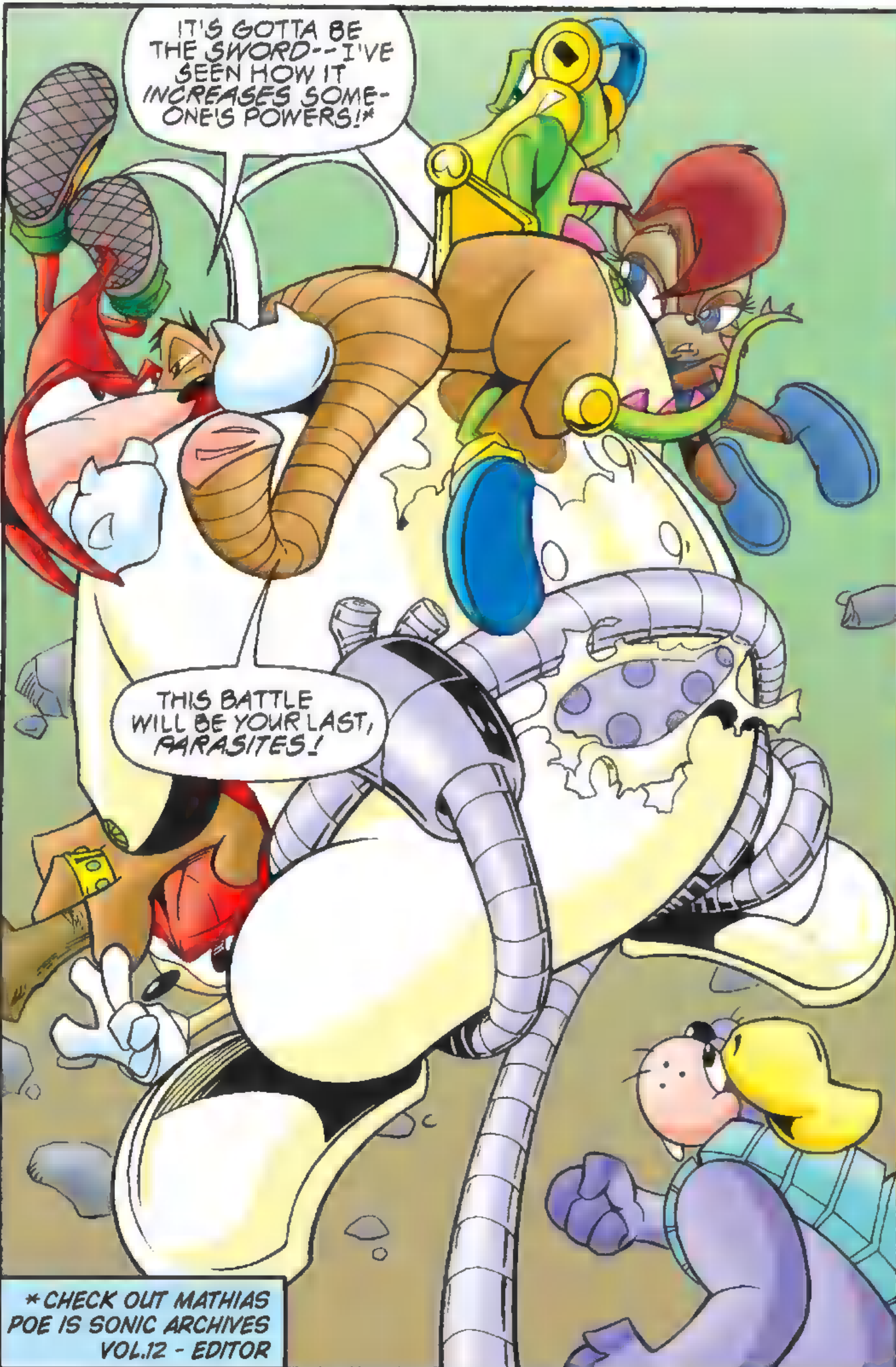
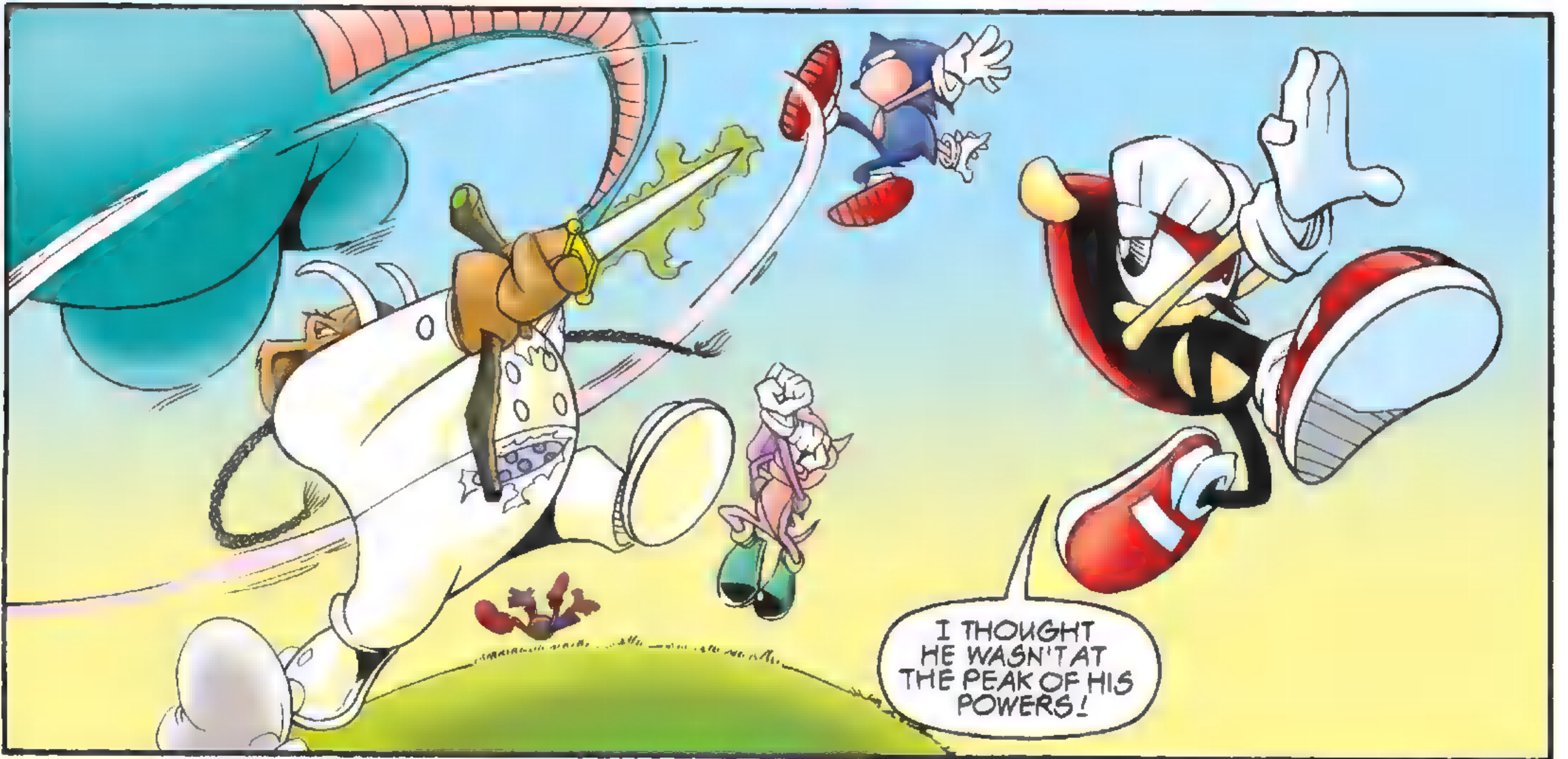
AND WHILE THE
KEWL FLAMES MADE
US LOOK LIKE WE
WERE TAKIN' THE
HEAT, ARCHY TELE-
PORTED US TO
SAFETY...

...WHICH GAVE US
TIME TO FIGURE OUT
BOTH OUR GANGS WERE
TAKING THE RAP FOR
YOUR HOMIES!

AND HOW IS
IT YOU CAME UPON
THAT BRIEF FLASH OF
BRILLIANCE?







*CHECK OUT MATHIAS
POE IS SONIC ARCHIVES
VOL.12 - EDITOR

CRASH

WOW! BRING
TWO CHAOS EMERALDS
TOGETHER...

AND
THAT'S WHAT
YOU GET...
UTTER
CHAOS!

PRETTY SMART--
TAKING A CHANCE
ONE CHAOS EMERALD
MIGHT BLOW UP
ANOTHER!

IT WAS A
DESPERATE
GAMBLE AT
BEST!

ALRIGHT!
HE BLEW HIM
OUT OF THE
UNIVERSE!

DON'T SWEAT
IT, SHORTY, IT PAID
OFF!

AND IT
DID LEAVE
US WITH
THE SWORD,
SO...

AS PER MY
SOLEMN VOW, I
HUMBLY MAKE
GOOD MY
PROMISE!

AND FOR YOUR
COURAGE AND FORTI-
TUDE ON BEHALF OF
THE REALM...



I HEARBY DULY
KNIGHT YOU! YOU ARE
THIS ISLAND'S GUARDIAN,
BUT WHEN IN KNOTHOLE,
YOU ARE NOW AND FOREVER-
MORE... SIR KNUCKLES!

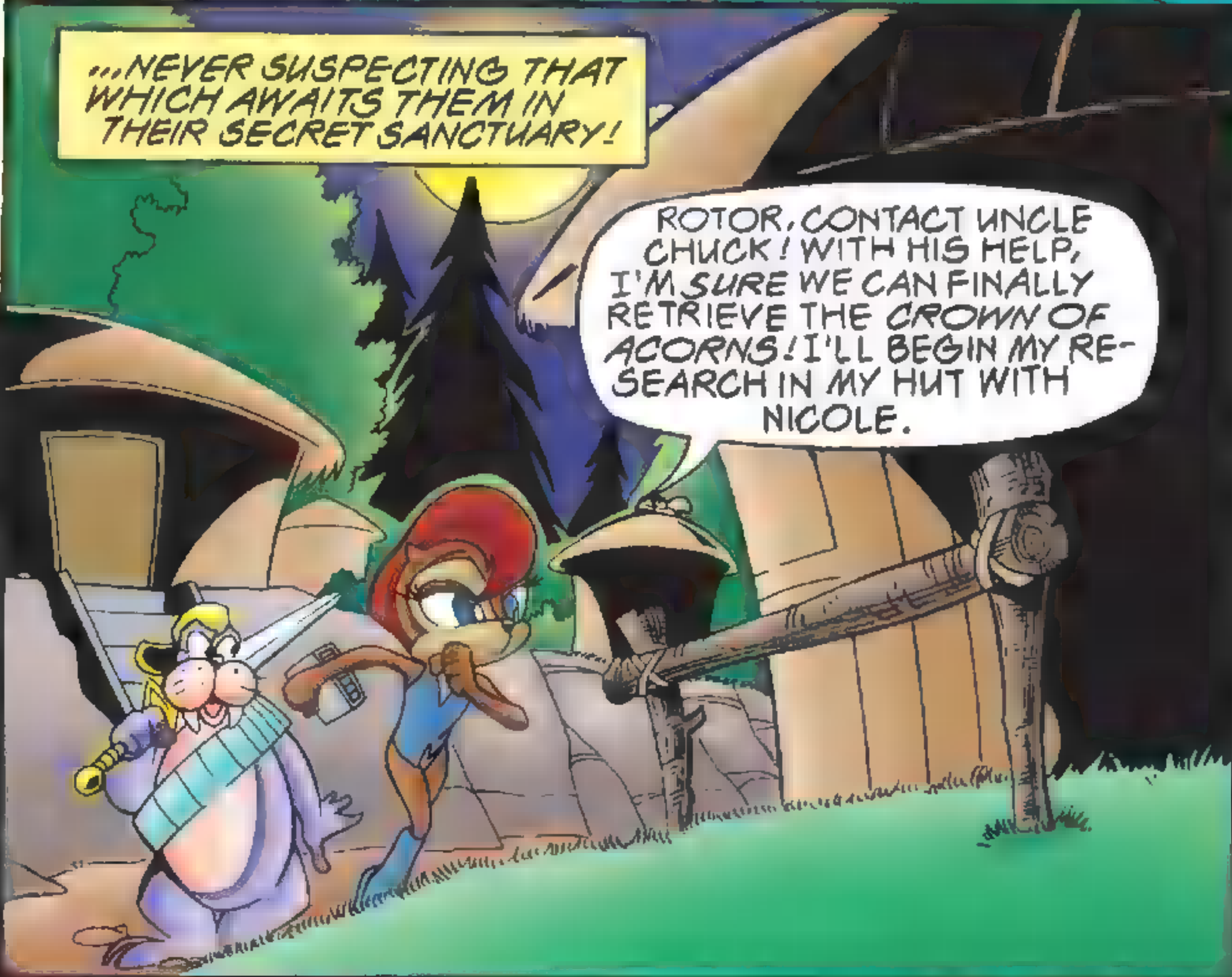


HIP HIP
HOORAY!



ALAS, DURING TIMES OF WAR,
SMALL VICTORIES CAN ONLY
SIRE SMALL CELEBRATIONS,
GIVING WAY TO DIRE ISSUES
AT HAND...

EAGER TO COMPLETE THEIR
FINAL GOAL, THE FREEDOM
FIGHTERS RACE HOME TO
SAVE THEIR KING...



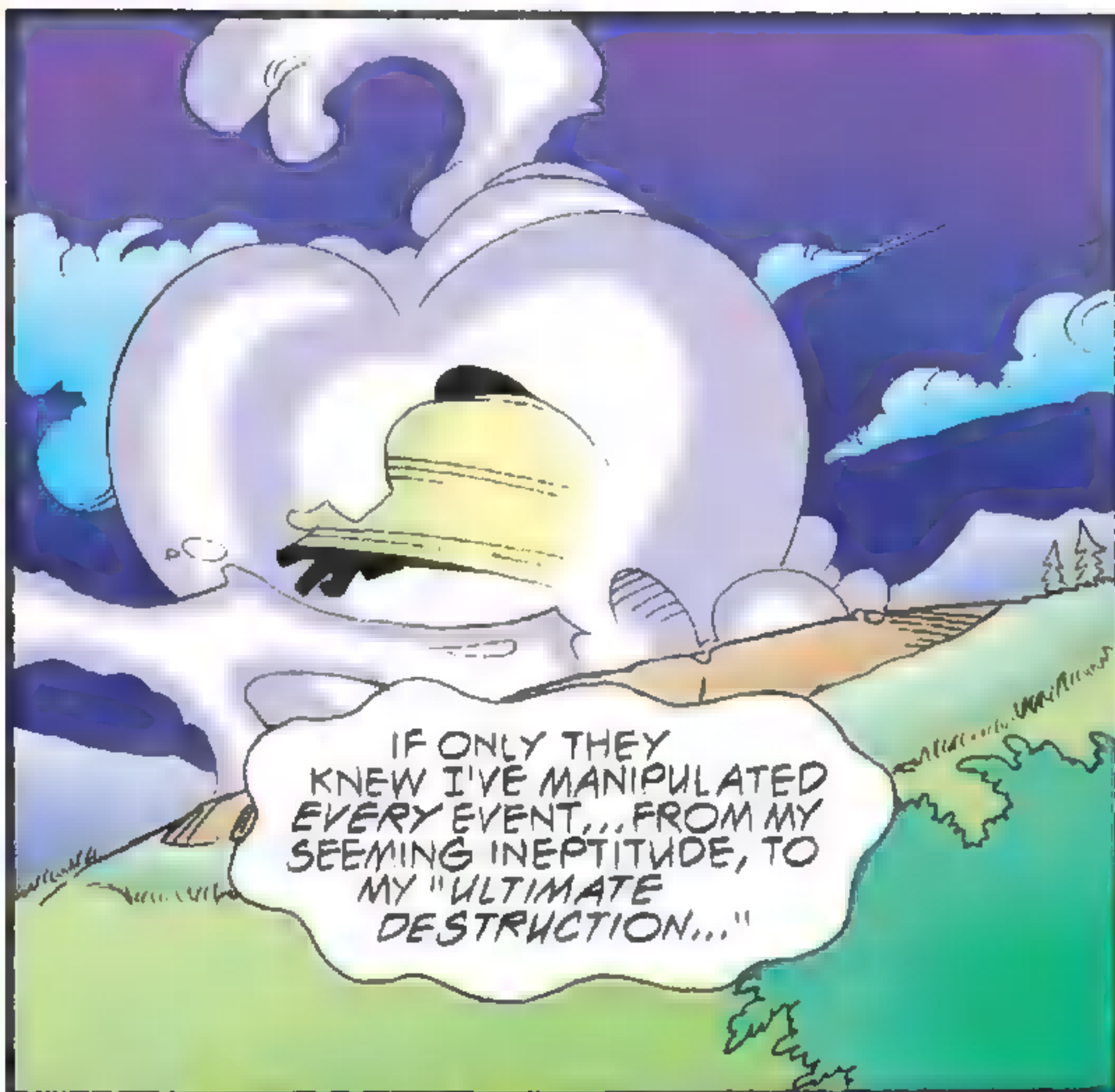
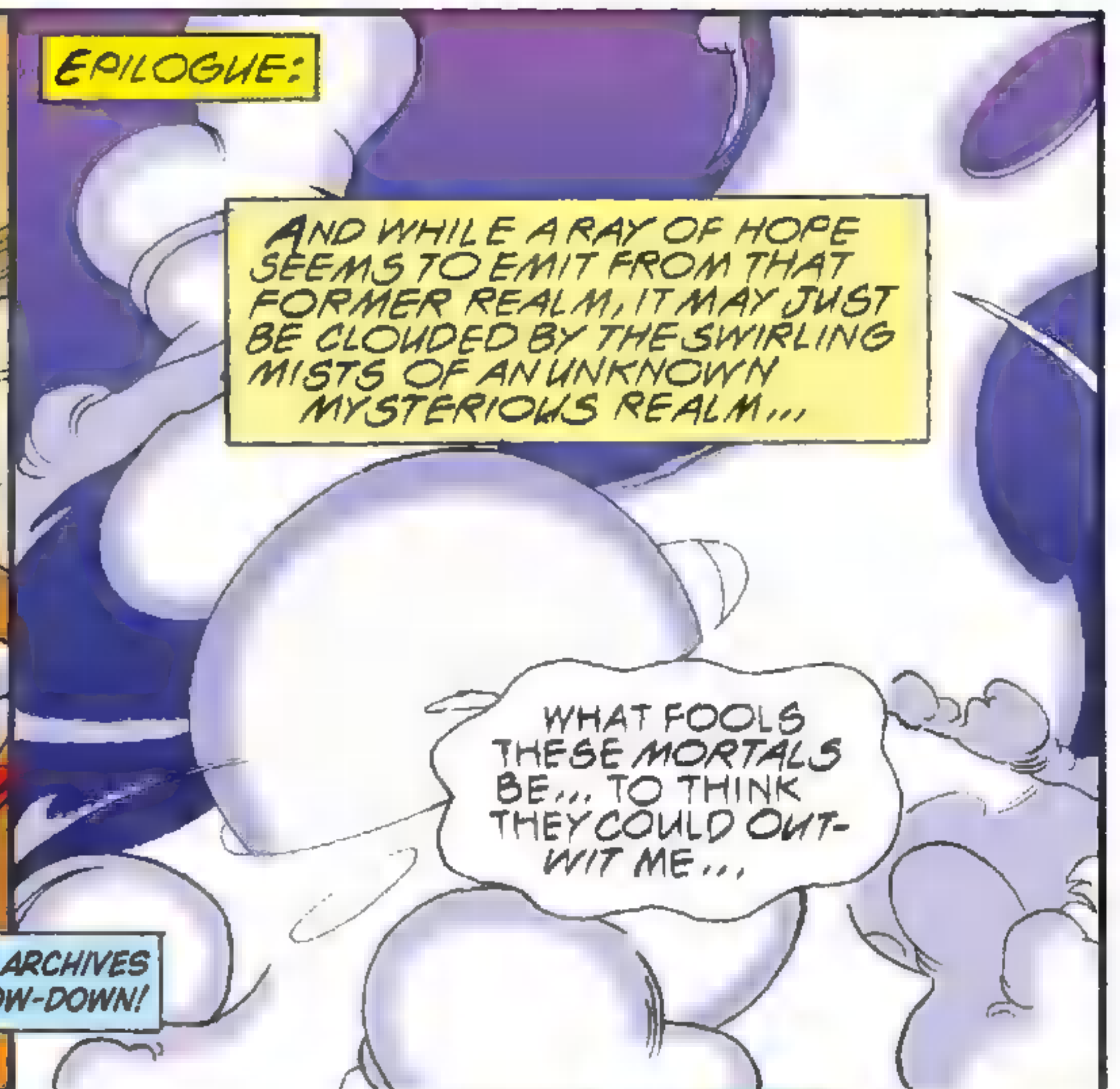
...NEVER SUSPECTING THAT
WHICH AWAITS THEM IN
THEIR SECRET SANCTUARY!

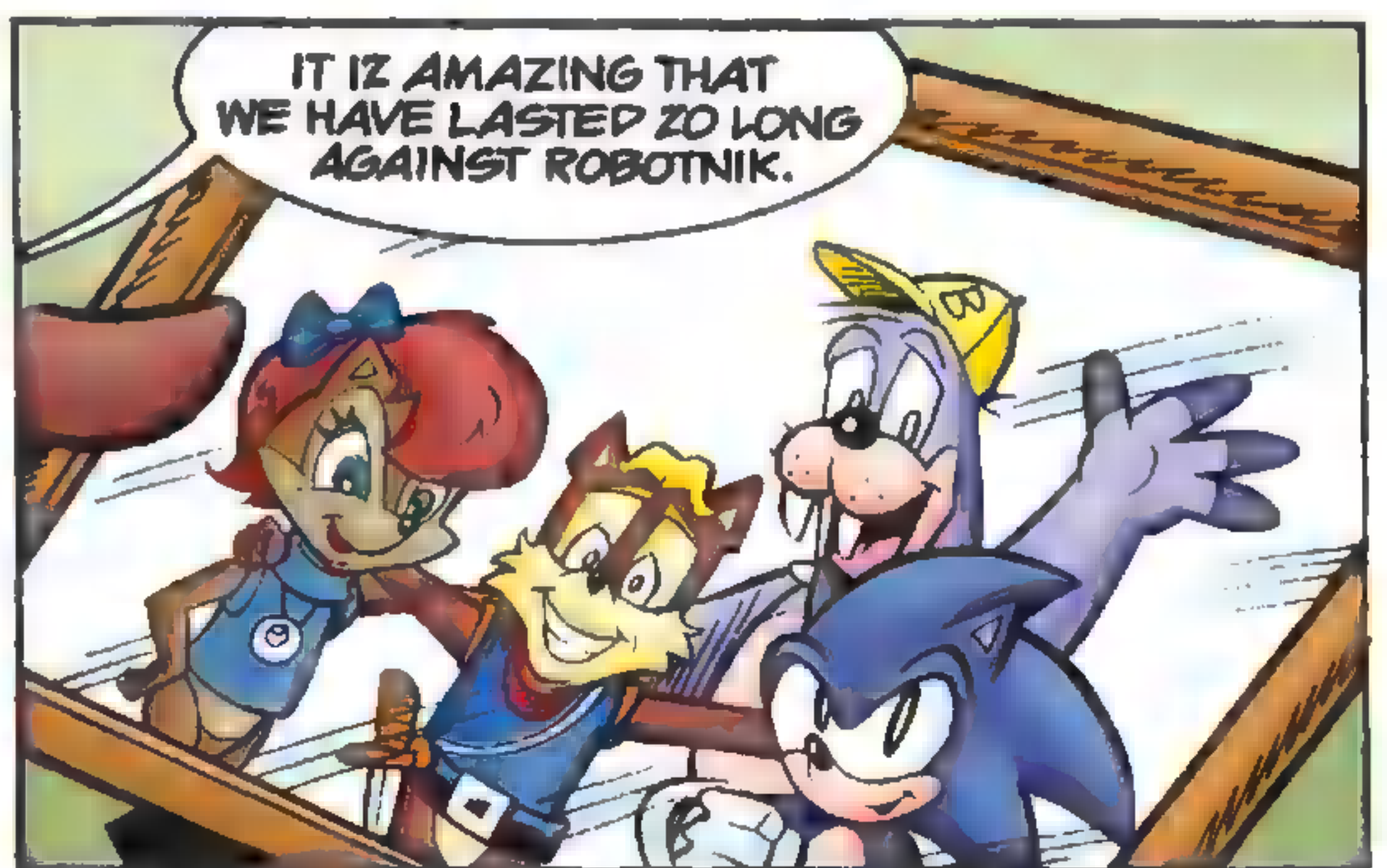
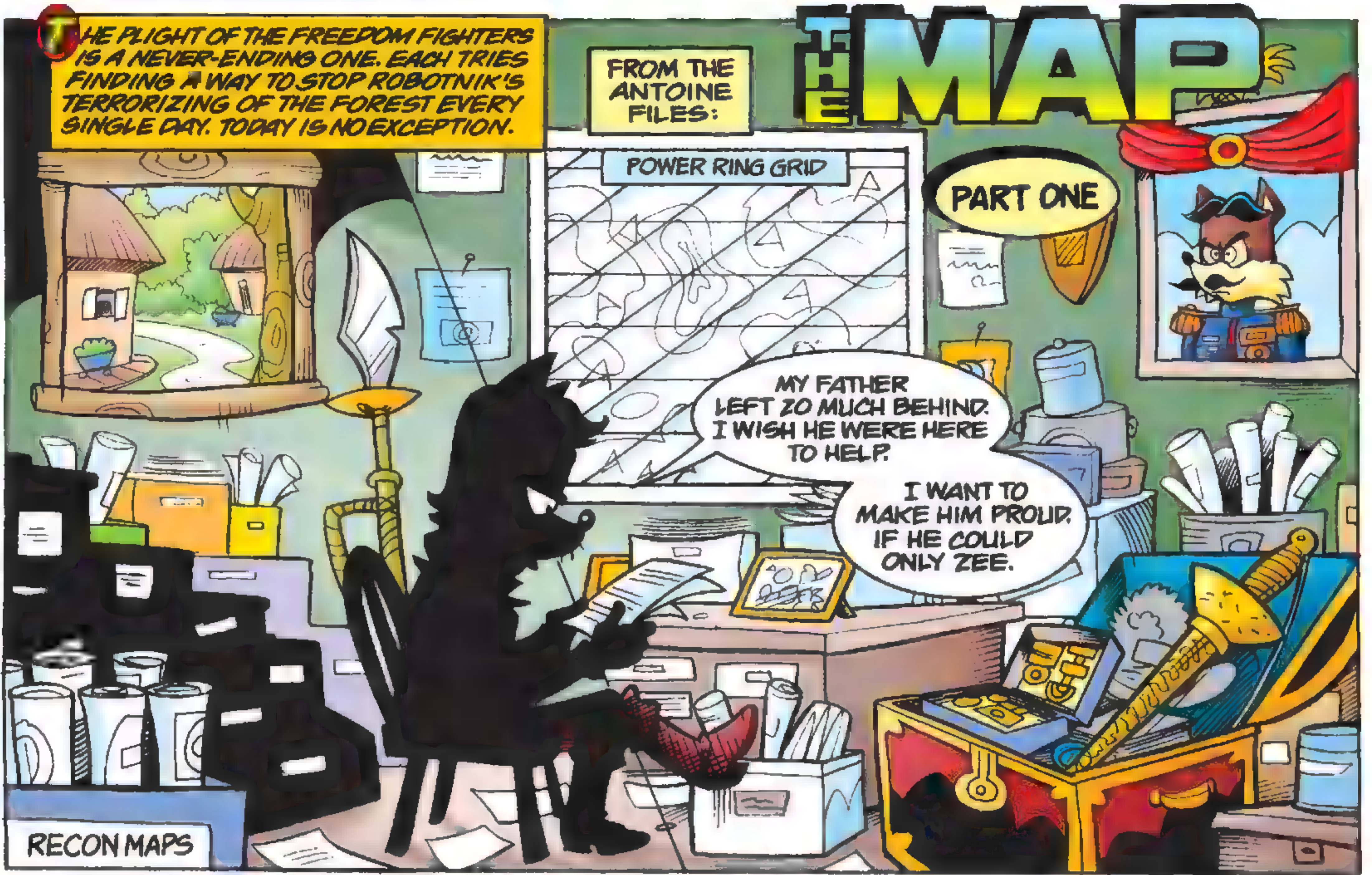
ROTOR, CONTACT UNCLE
CHUCK! WITH HIS HELP,
I'M SURE WE CAN FINALLY
RETRIEVE THE CROWN OF
ACORNS! I'LL BEGIN MY RE-
SEARCH IN MY HUT WITH
NICOLE.

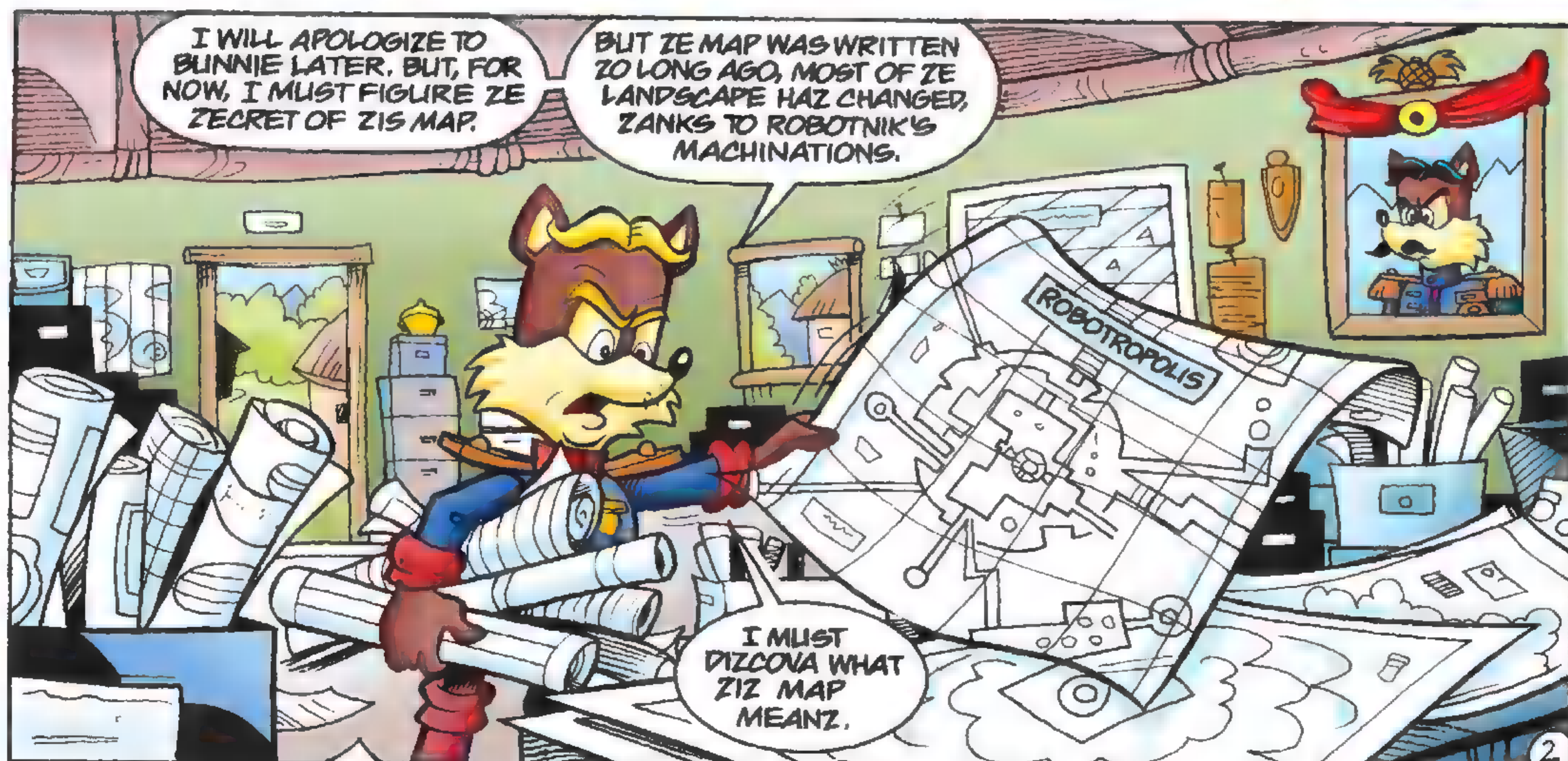
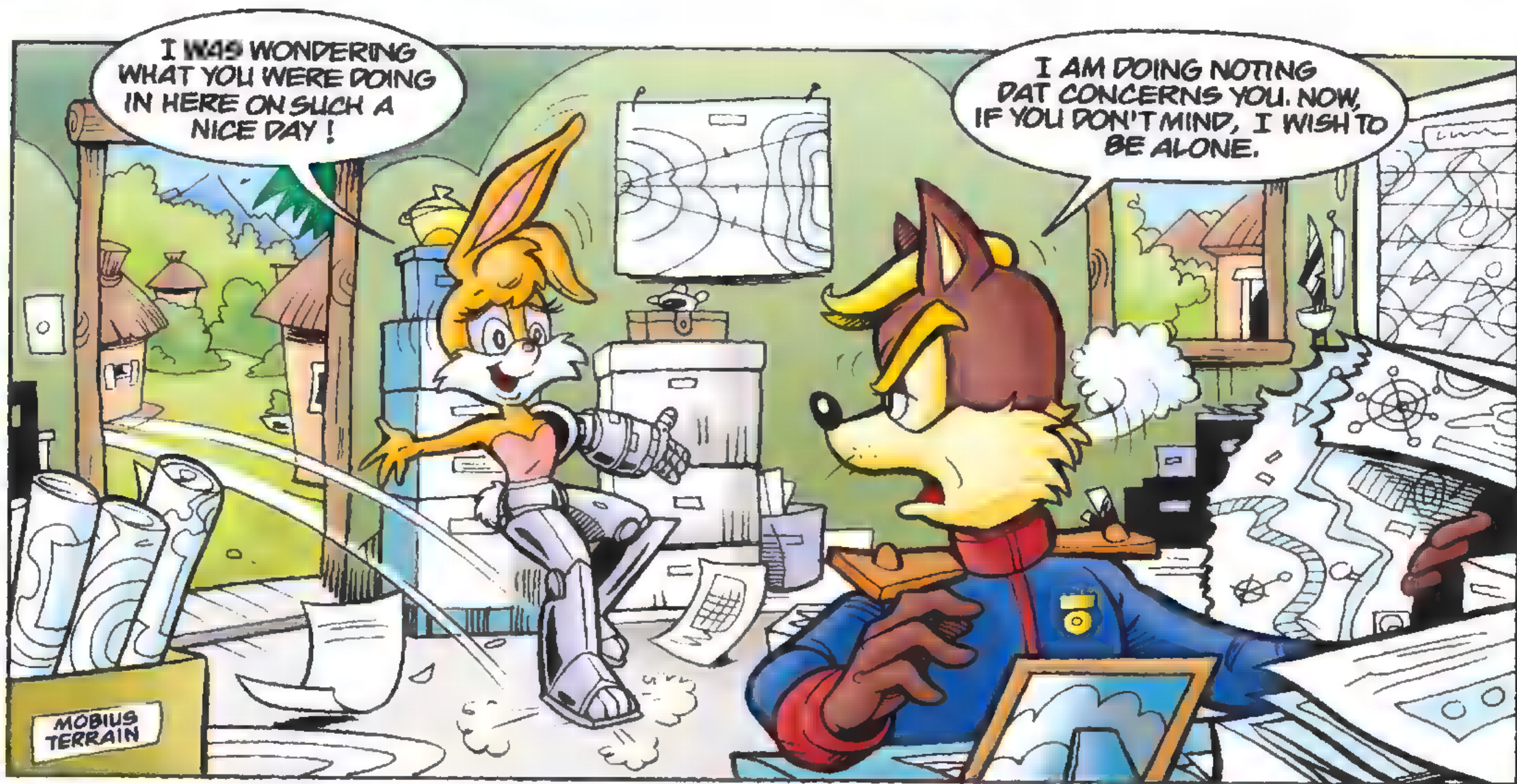


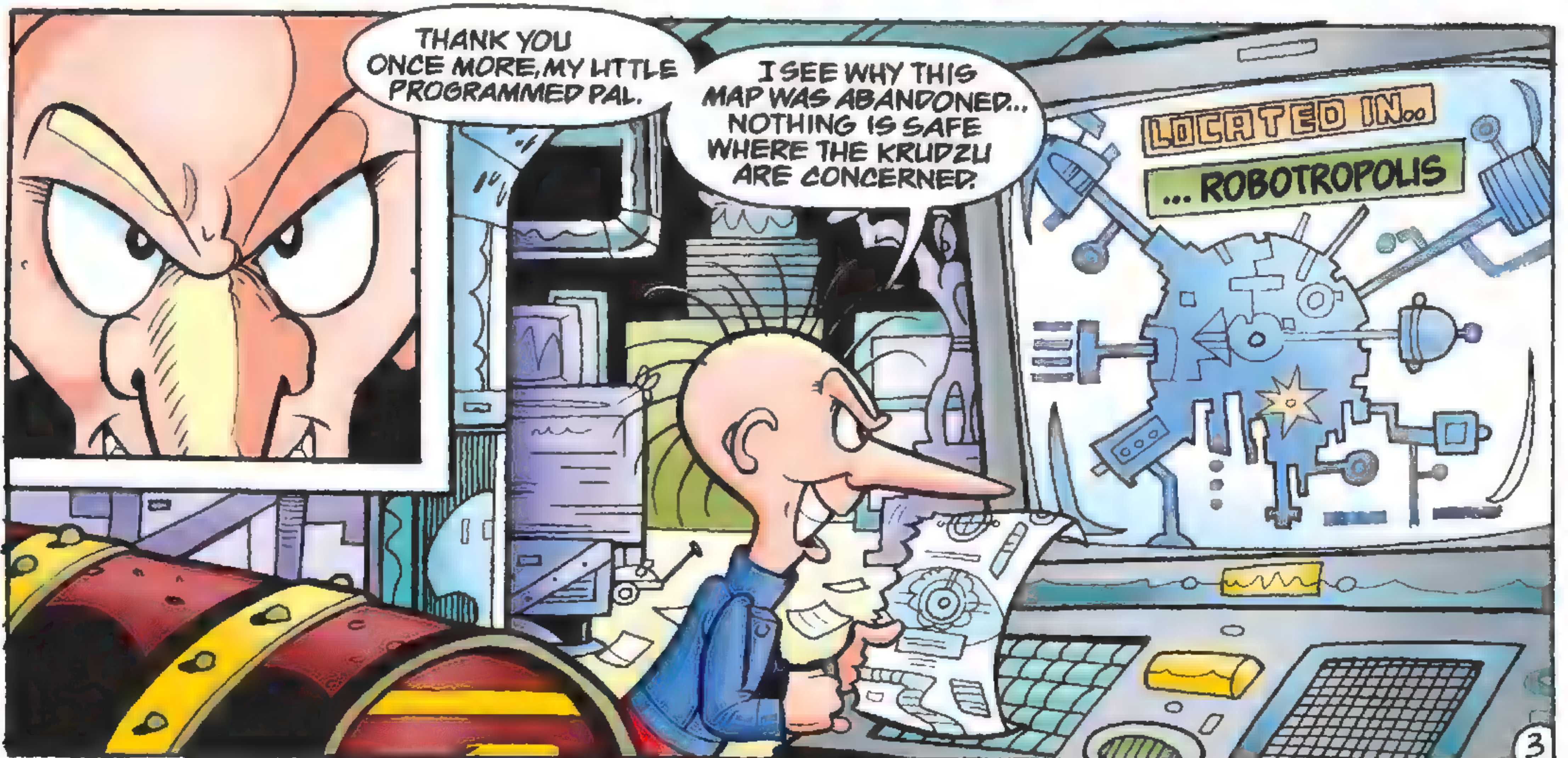
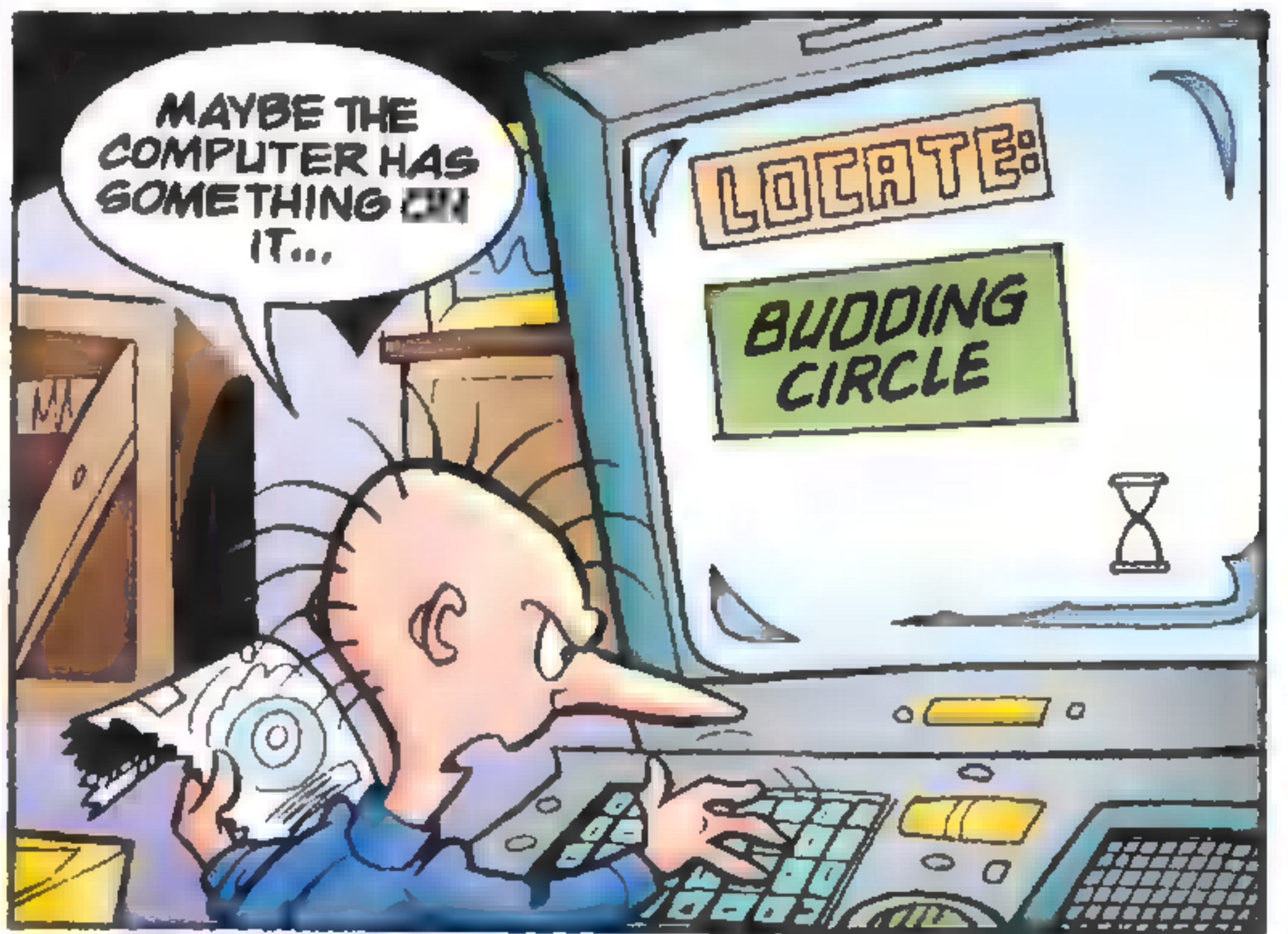
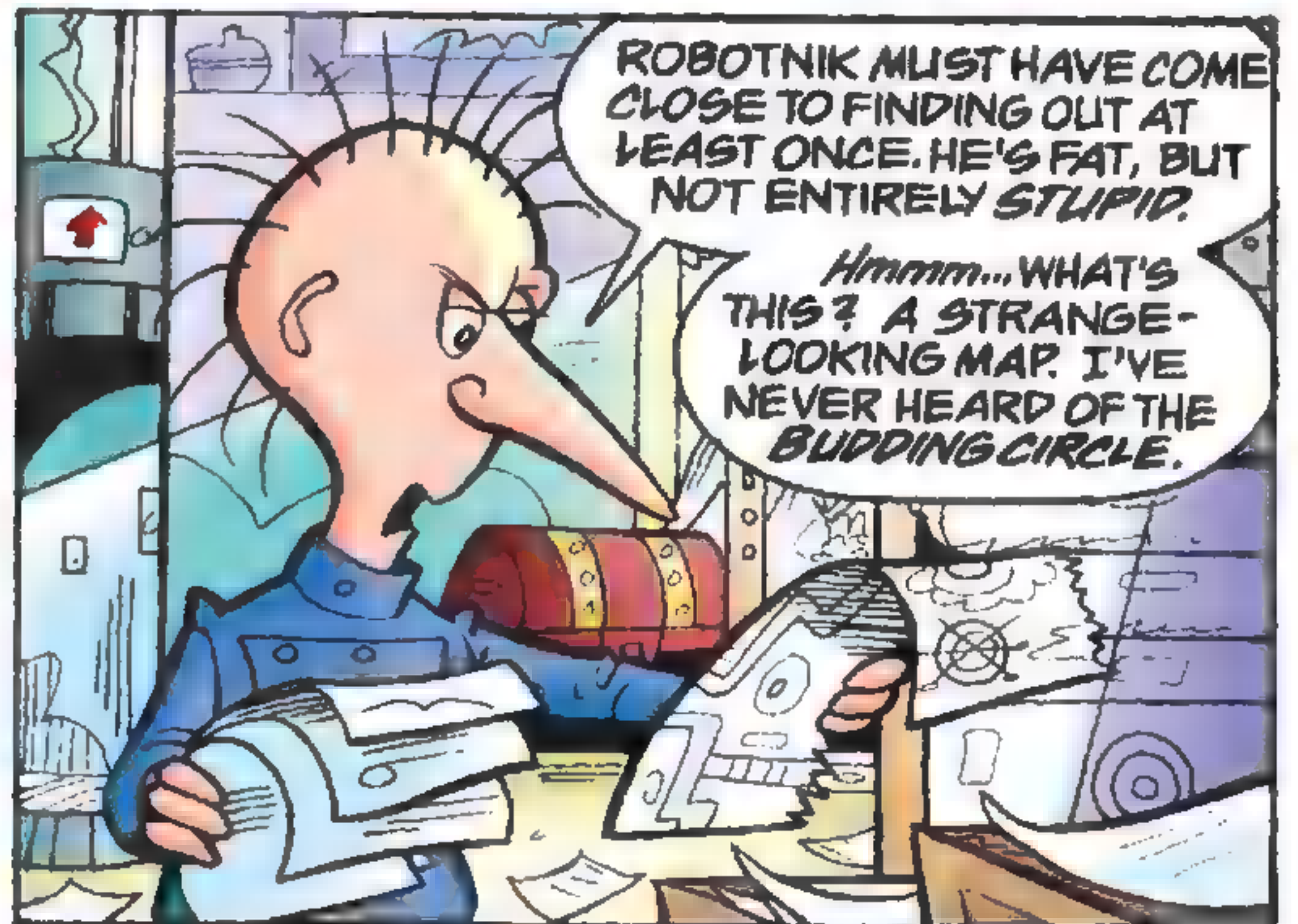
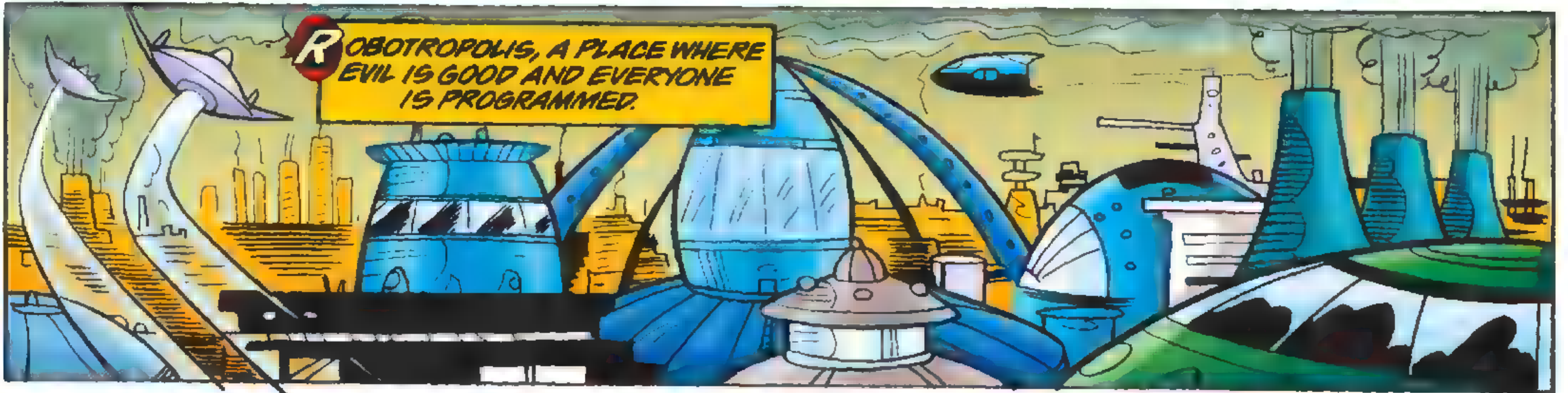
PRINCESS
SALLY!!!

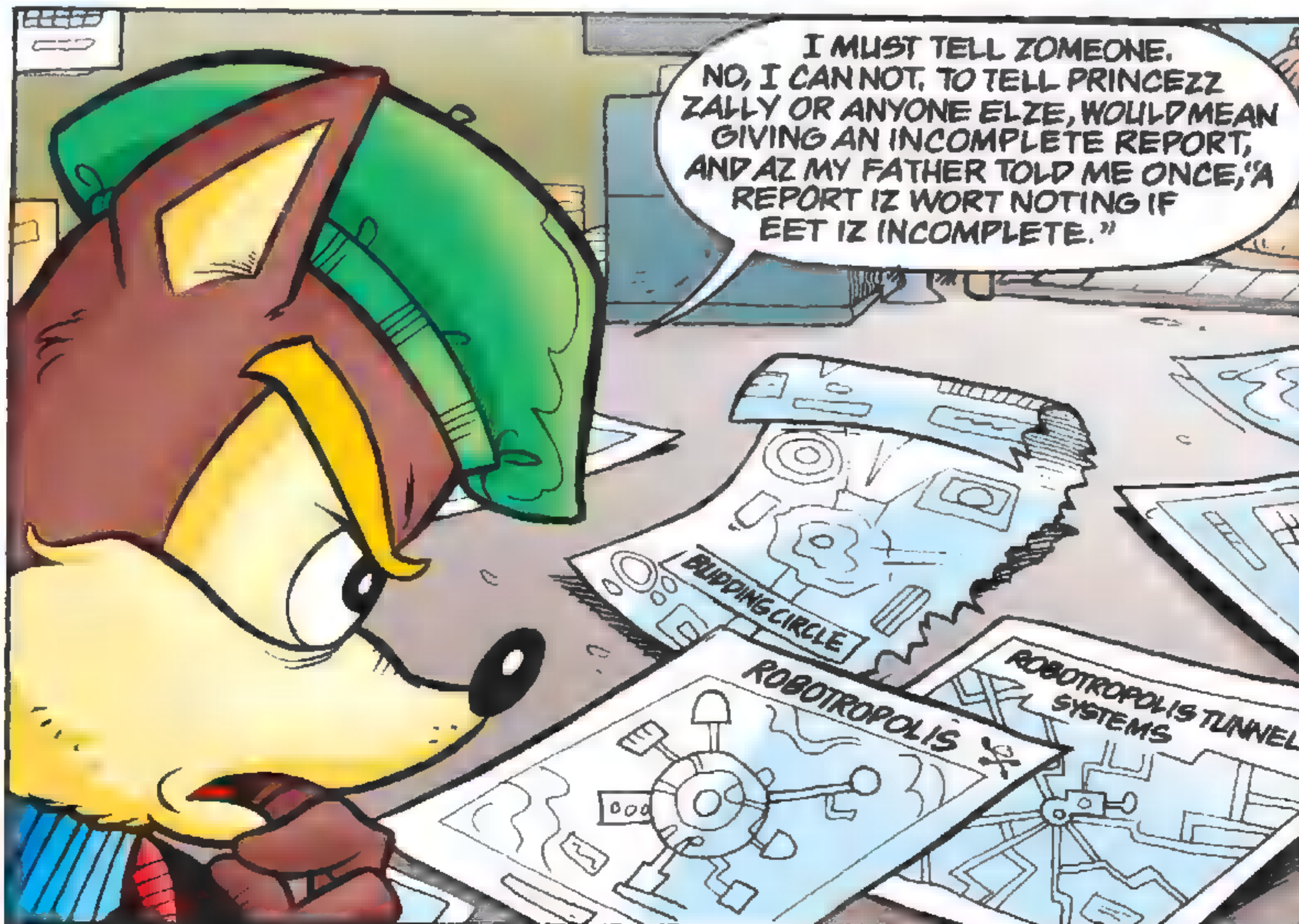
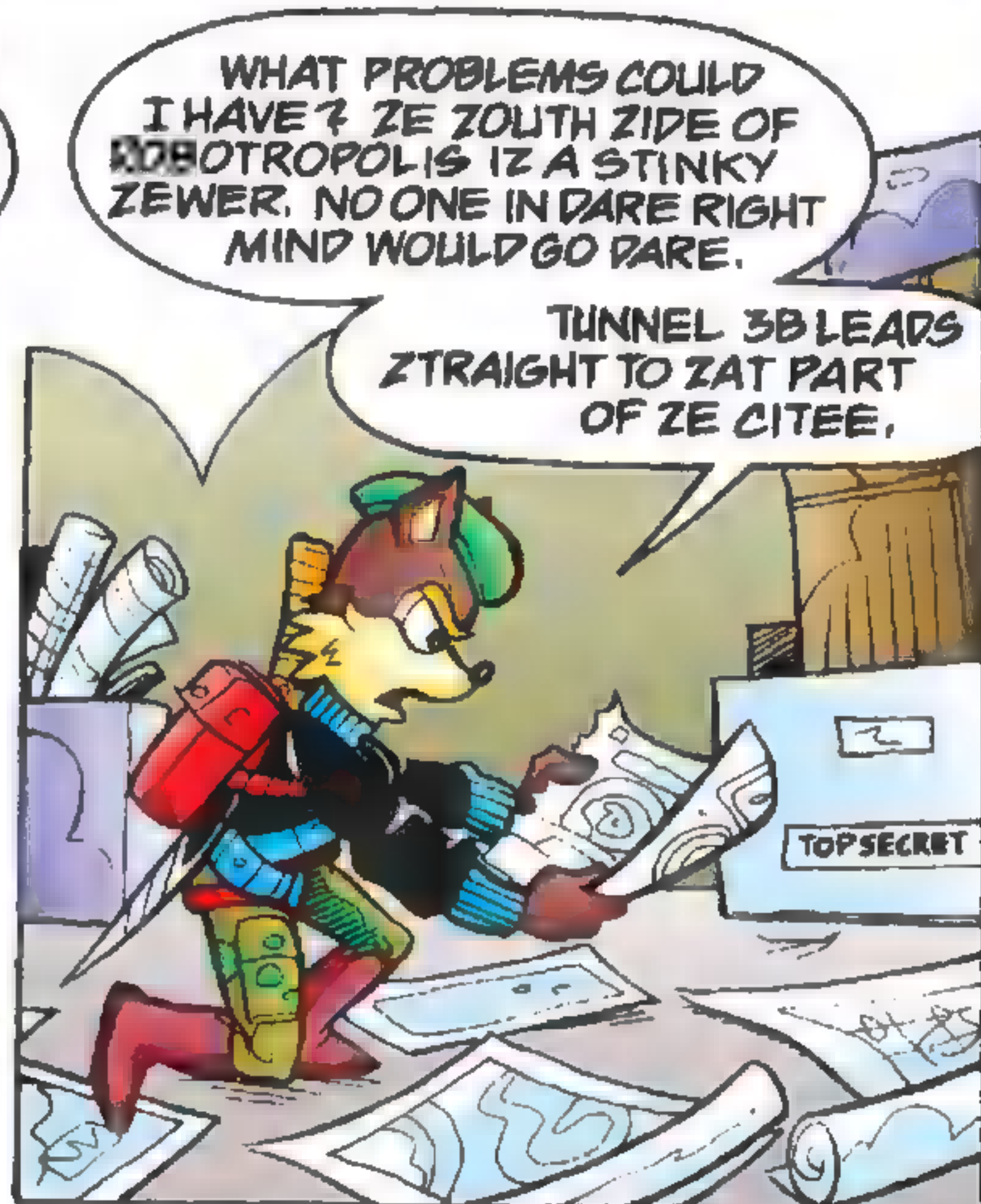
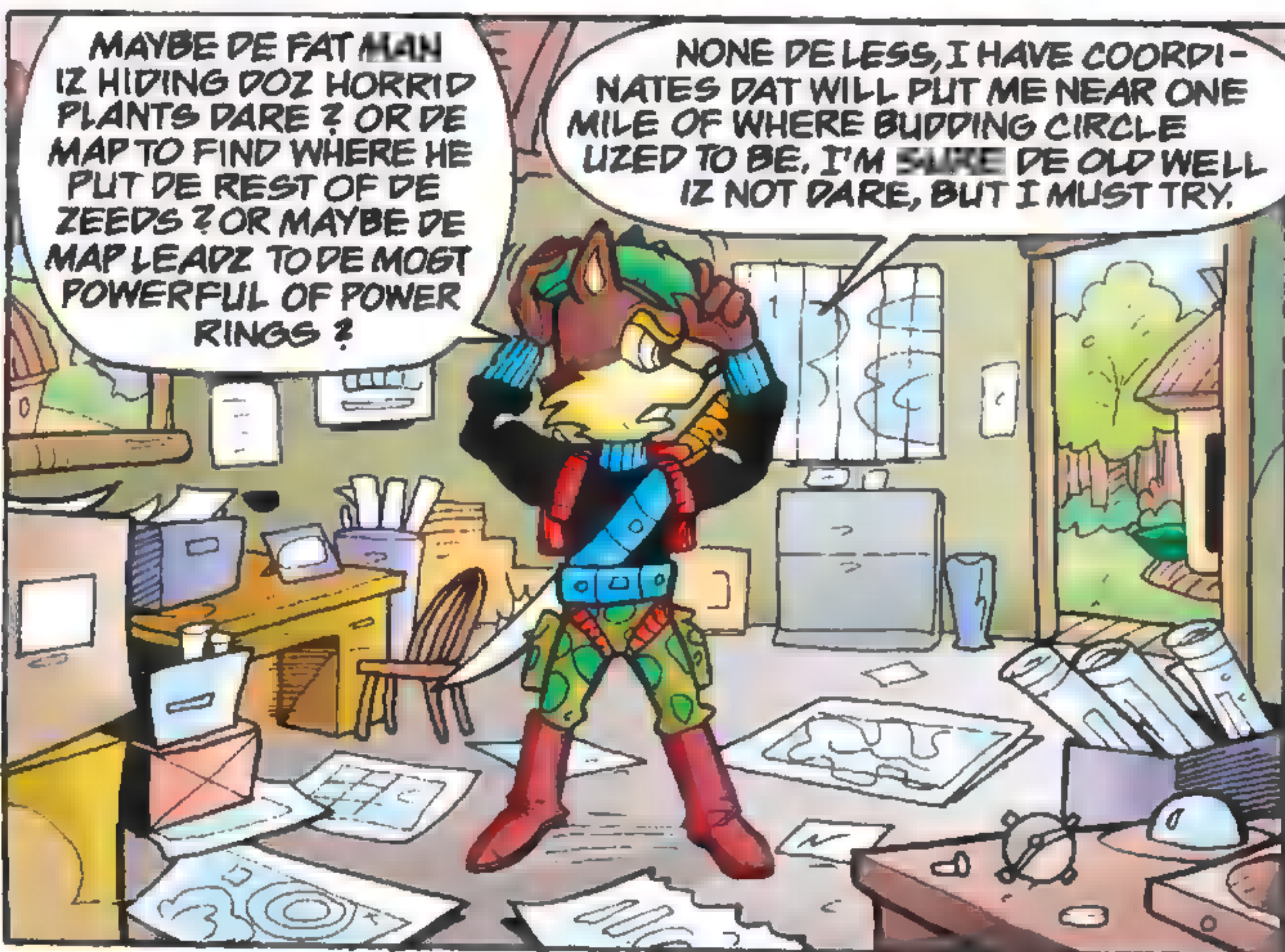
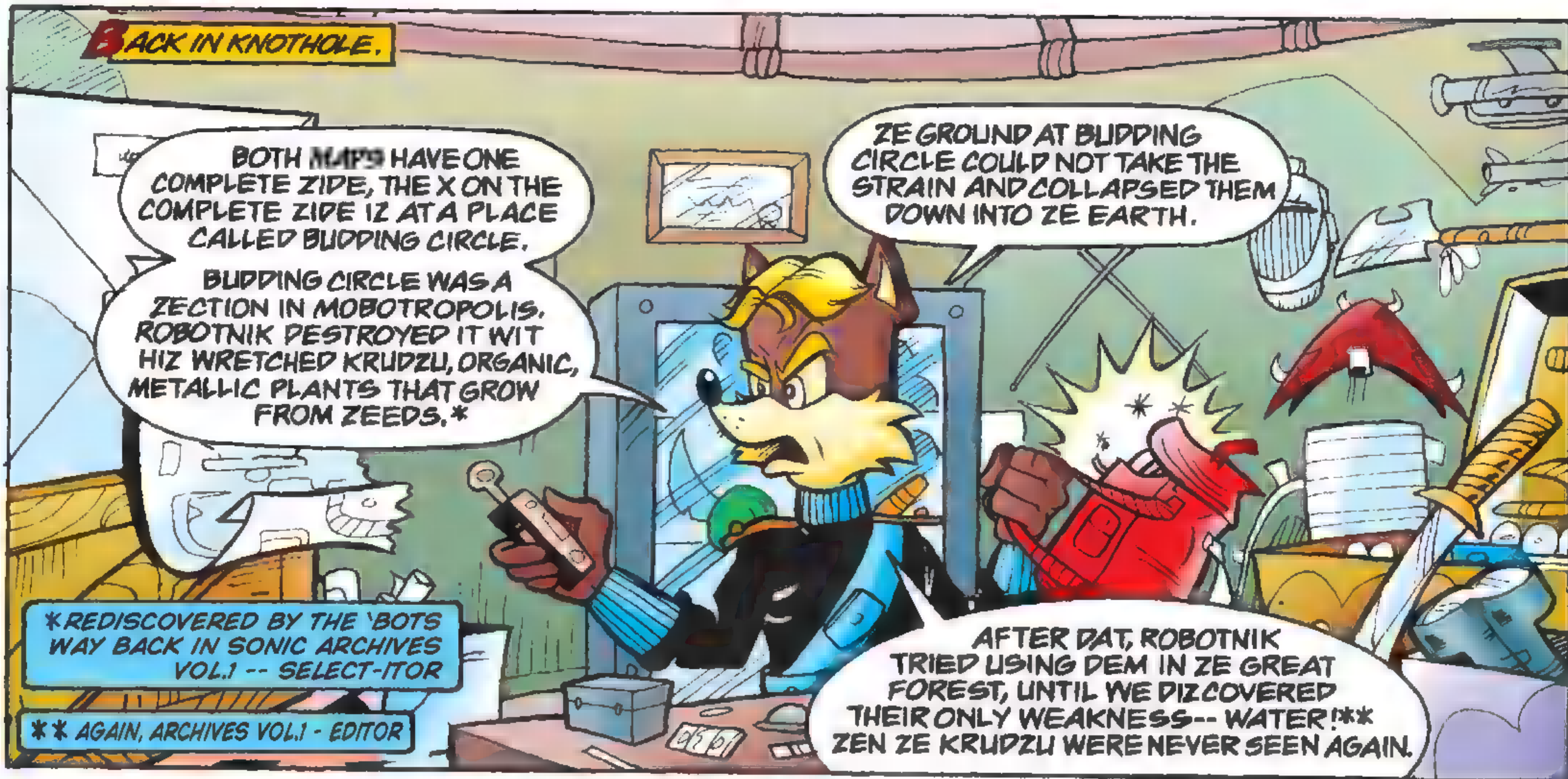
COME
QUICK,
CHILD!

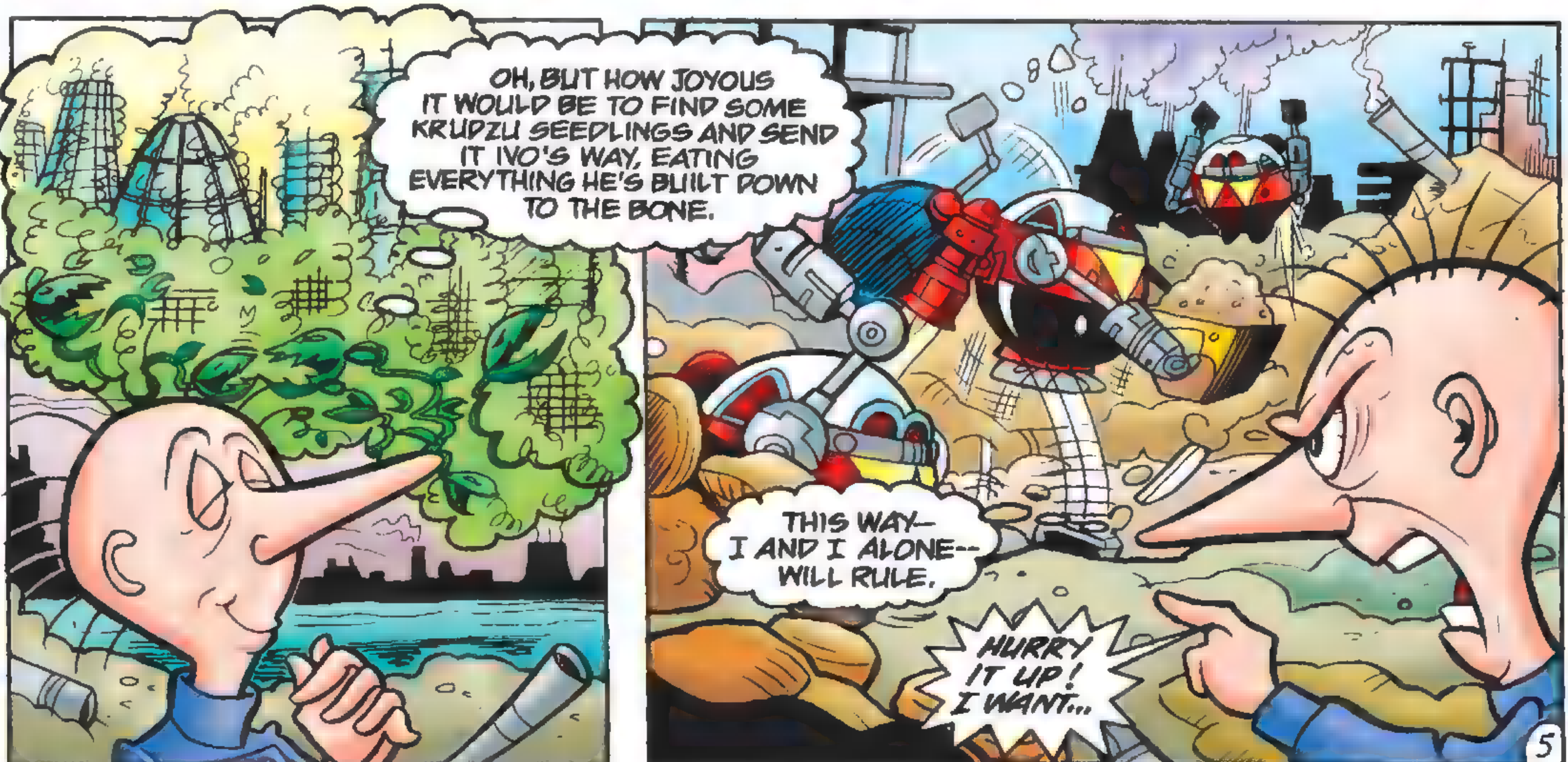
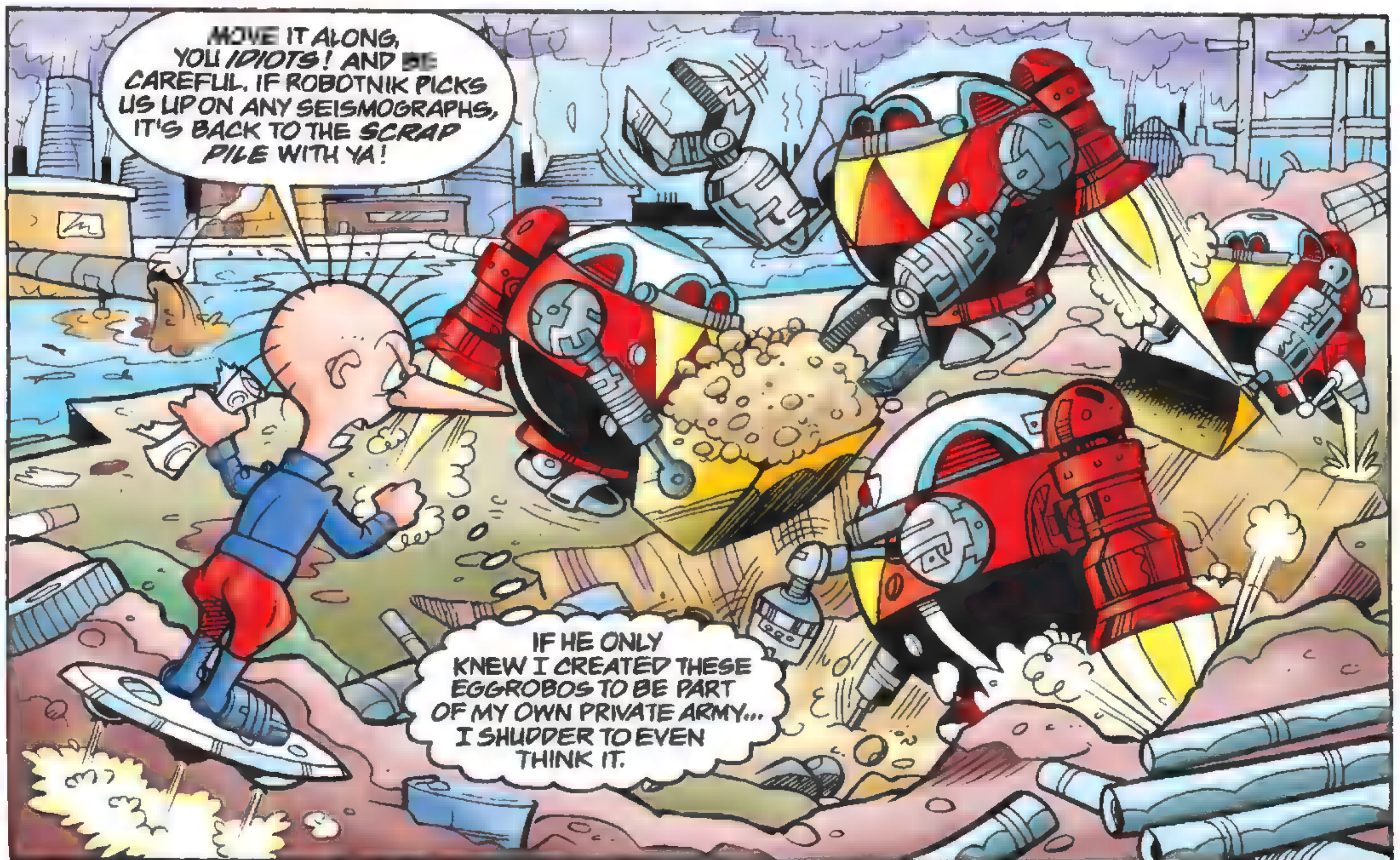
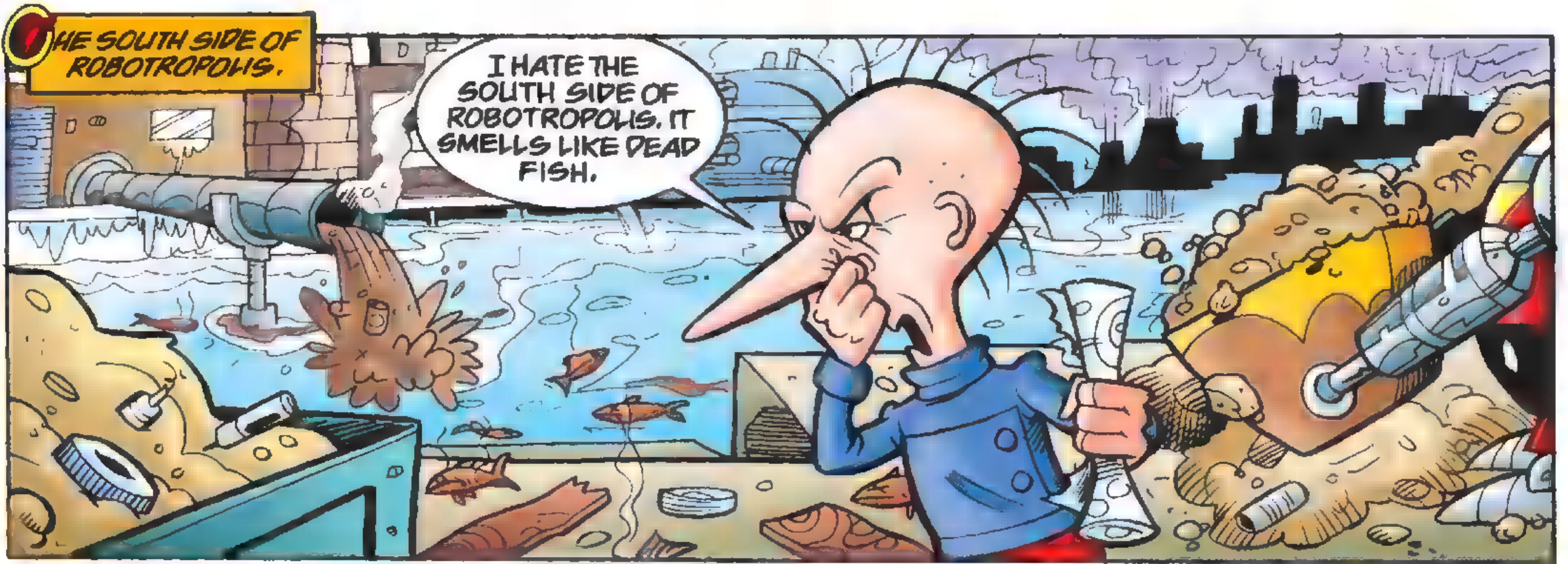


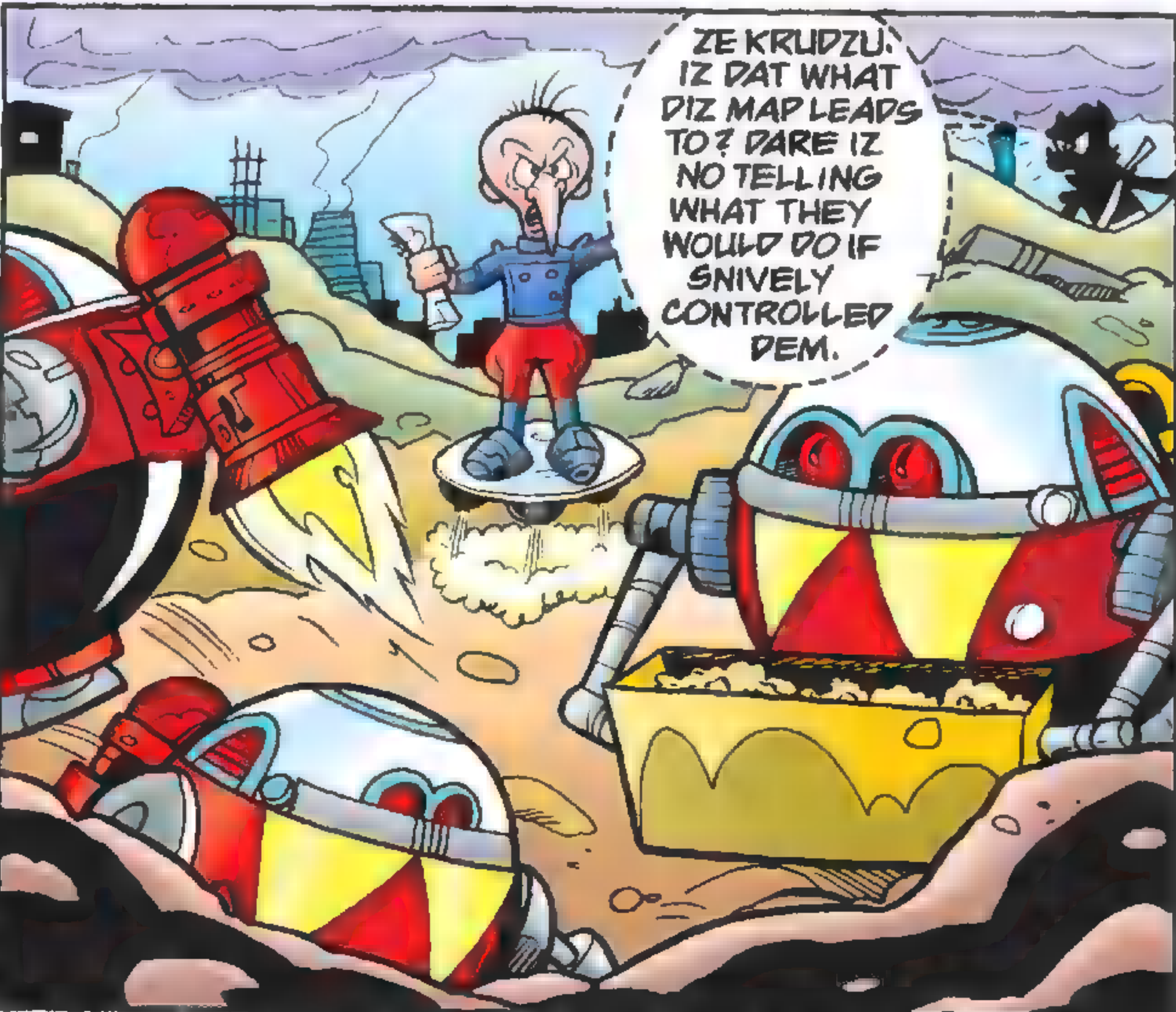
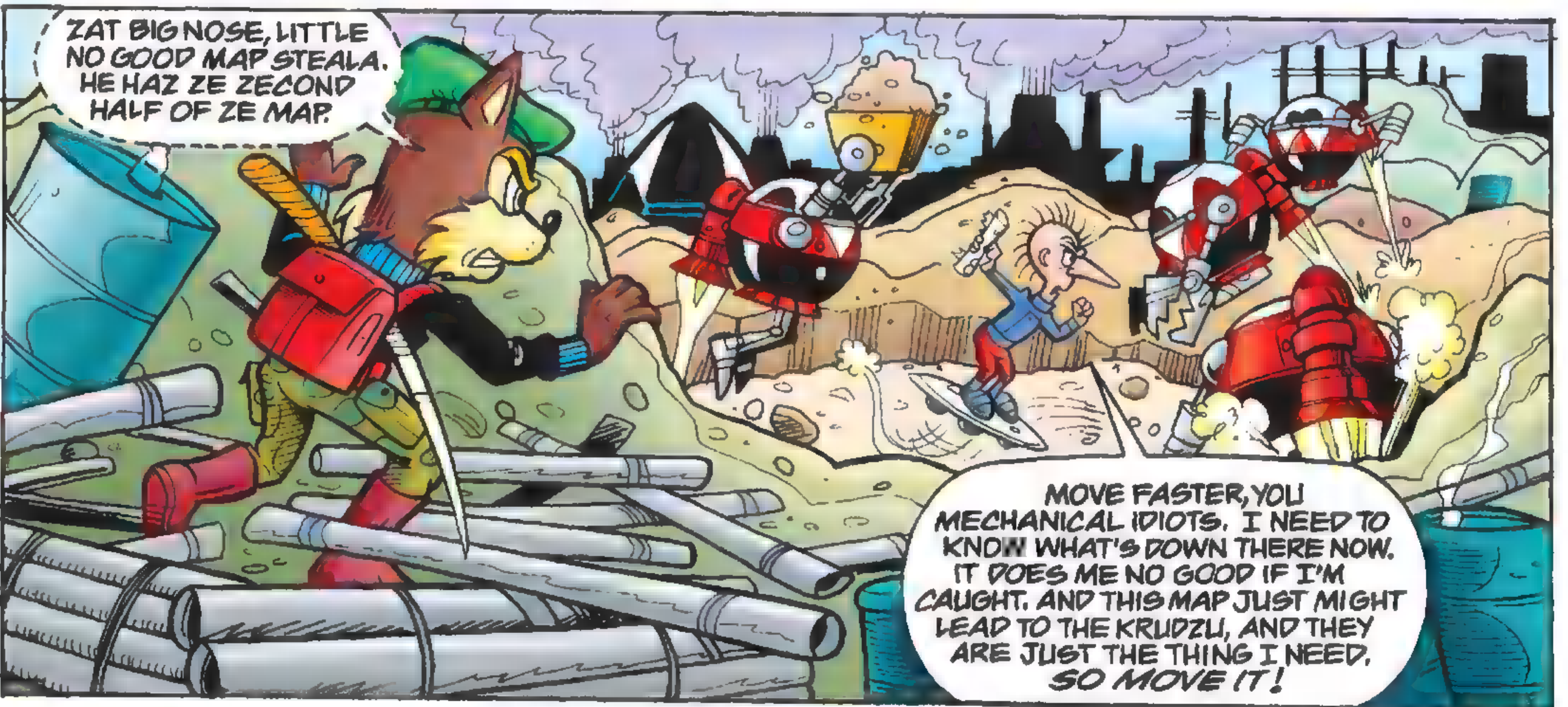
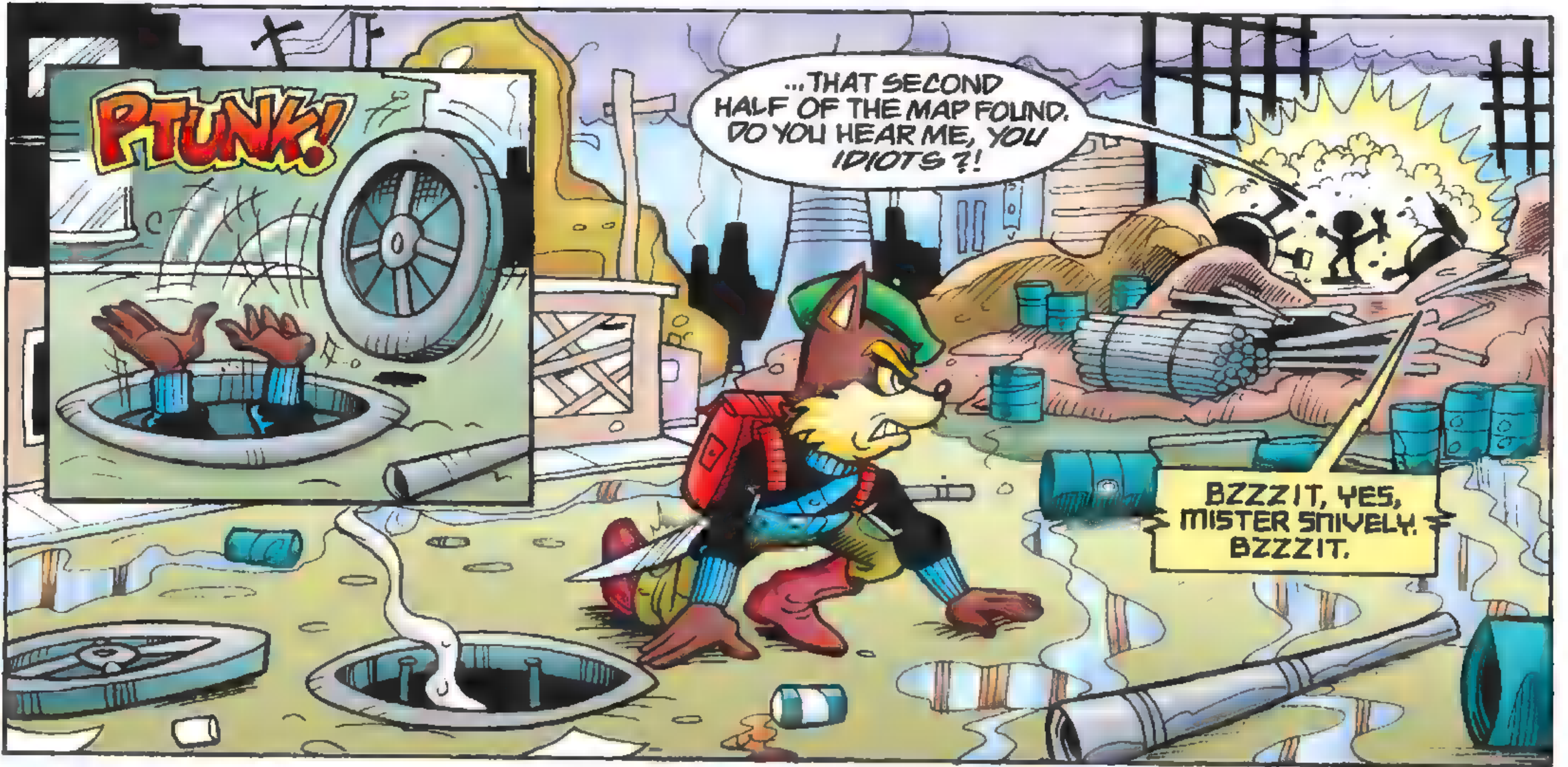


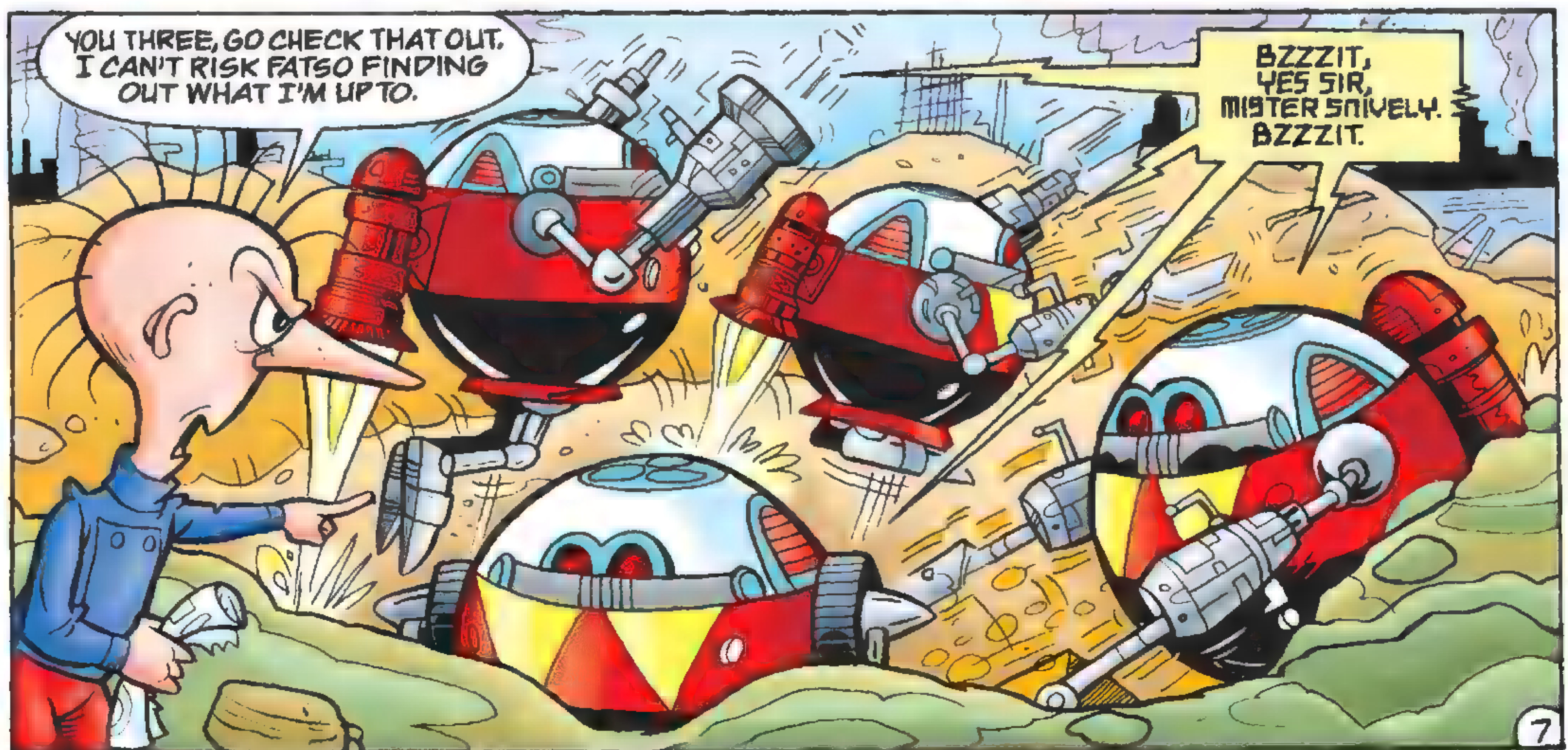
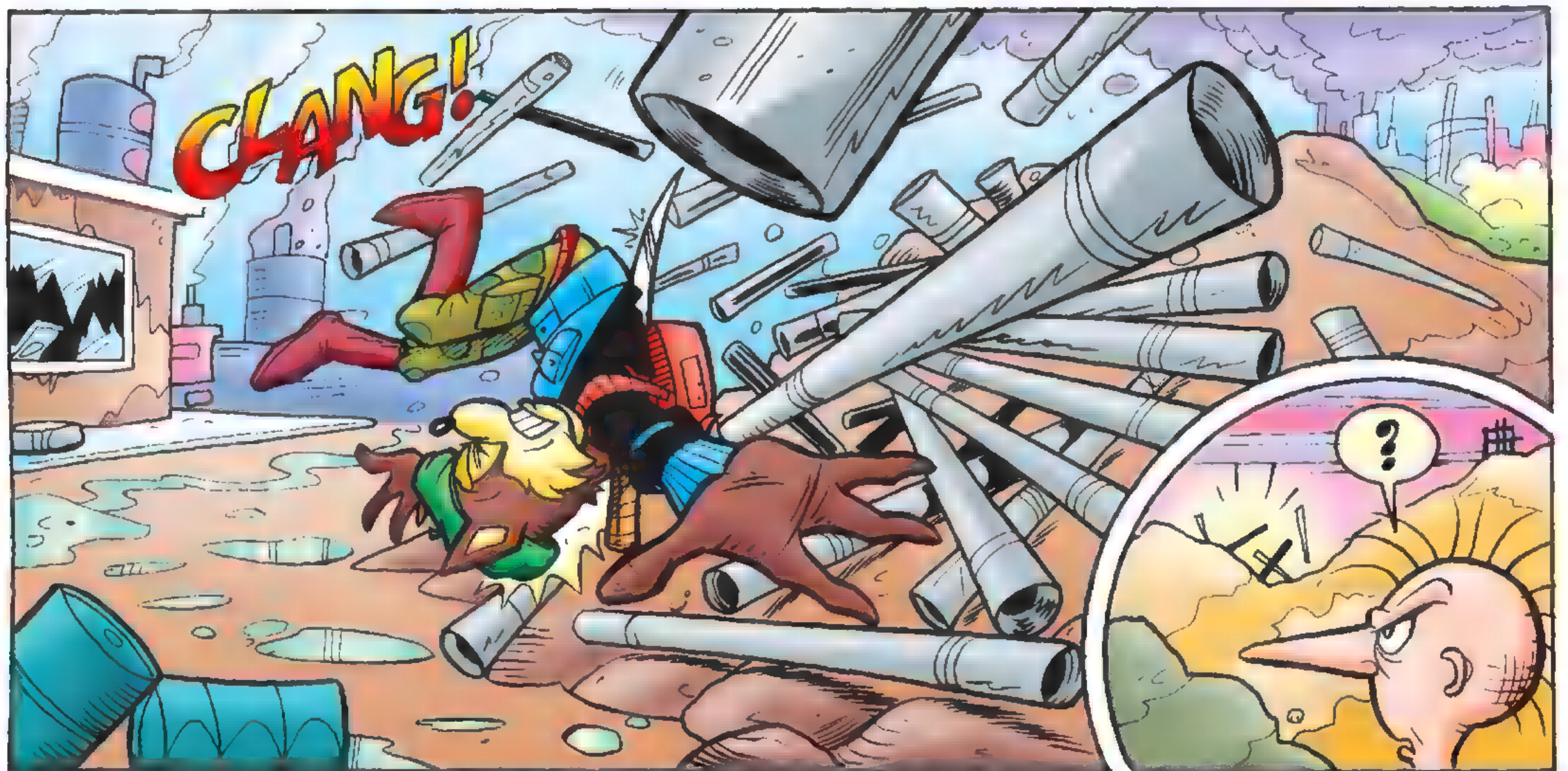














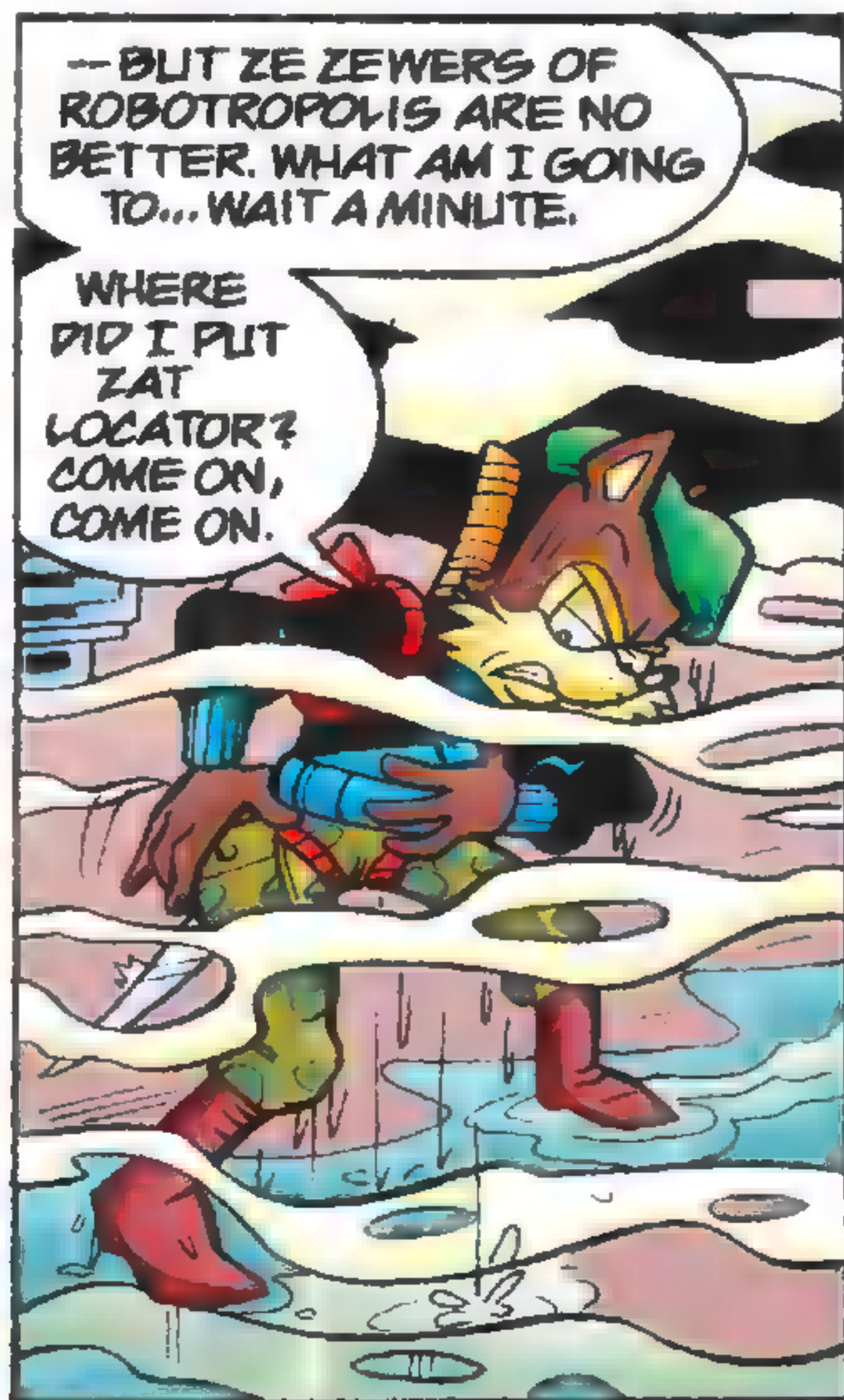
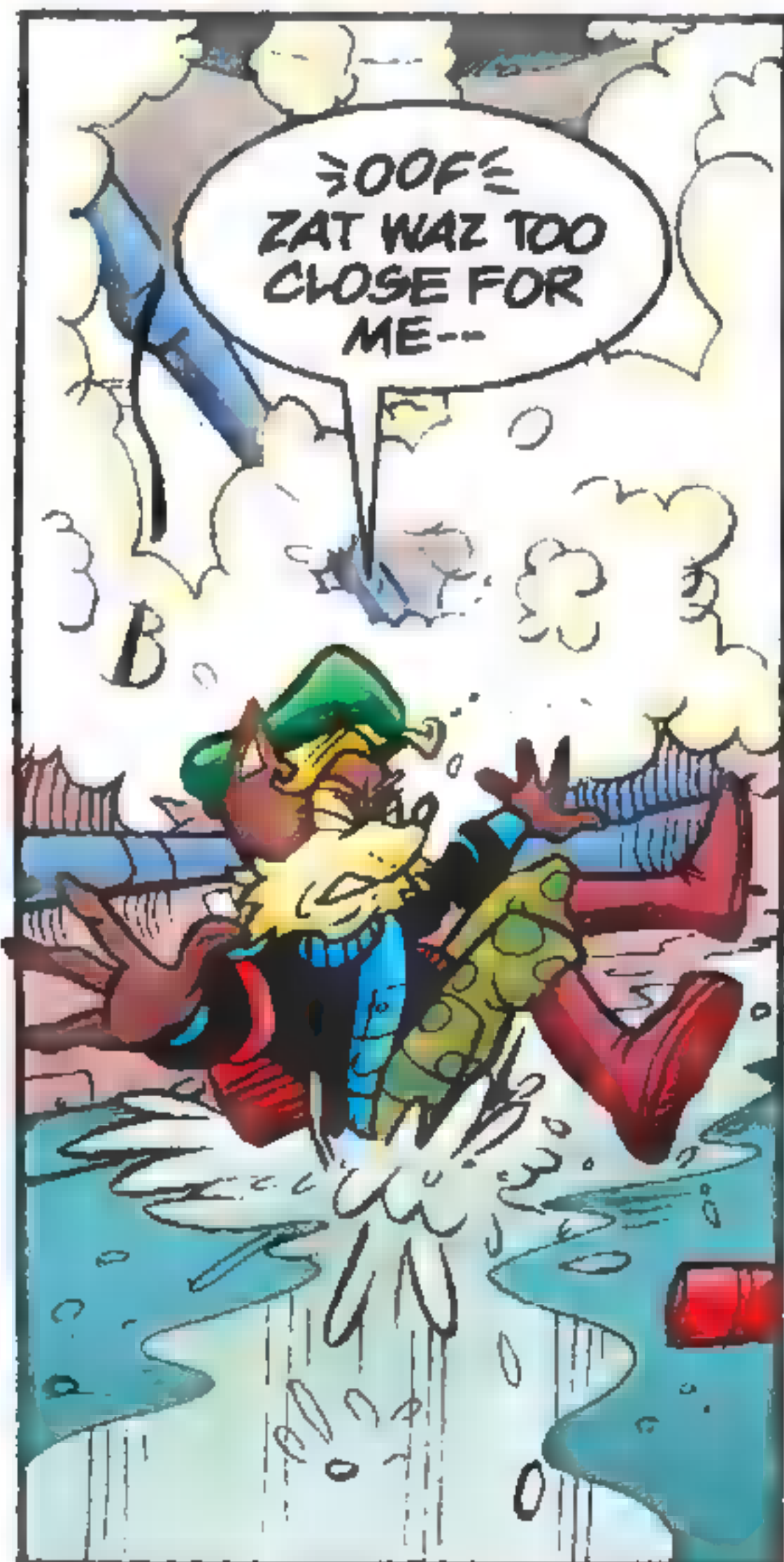
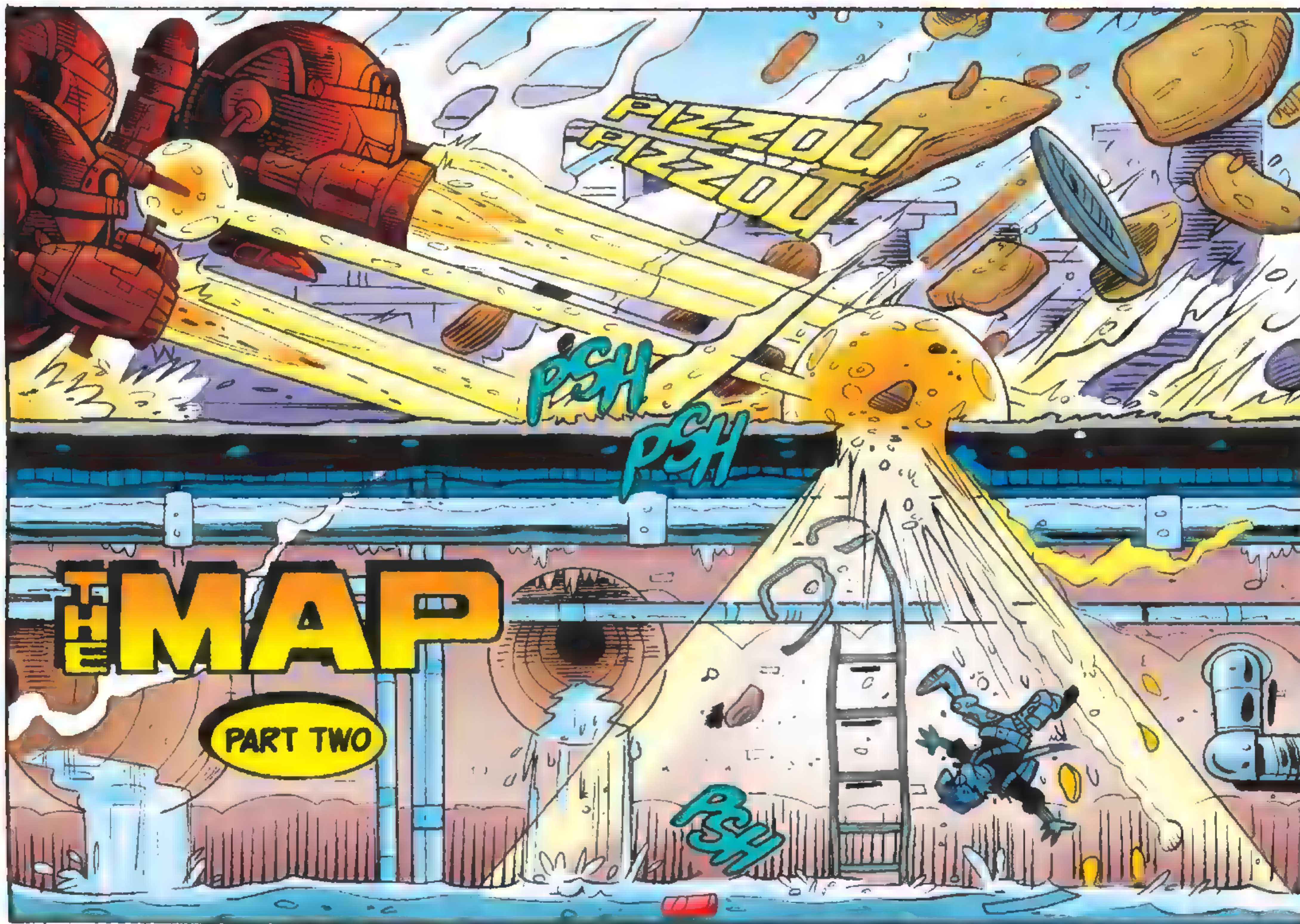
BZZZIT. SEARCH.

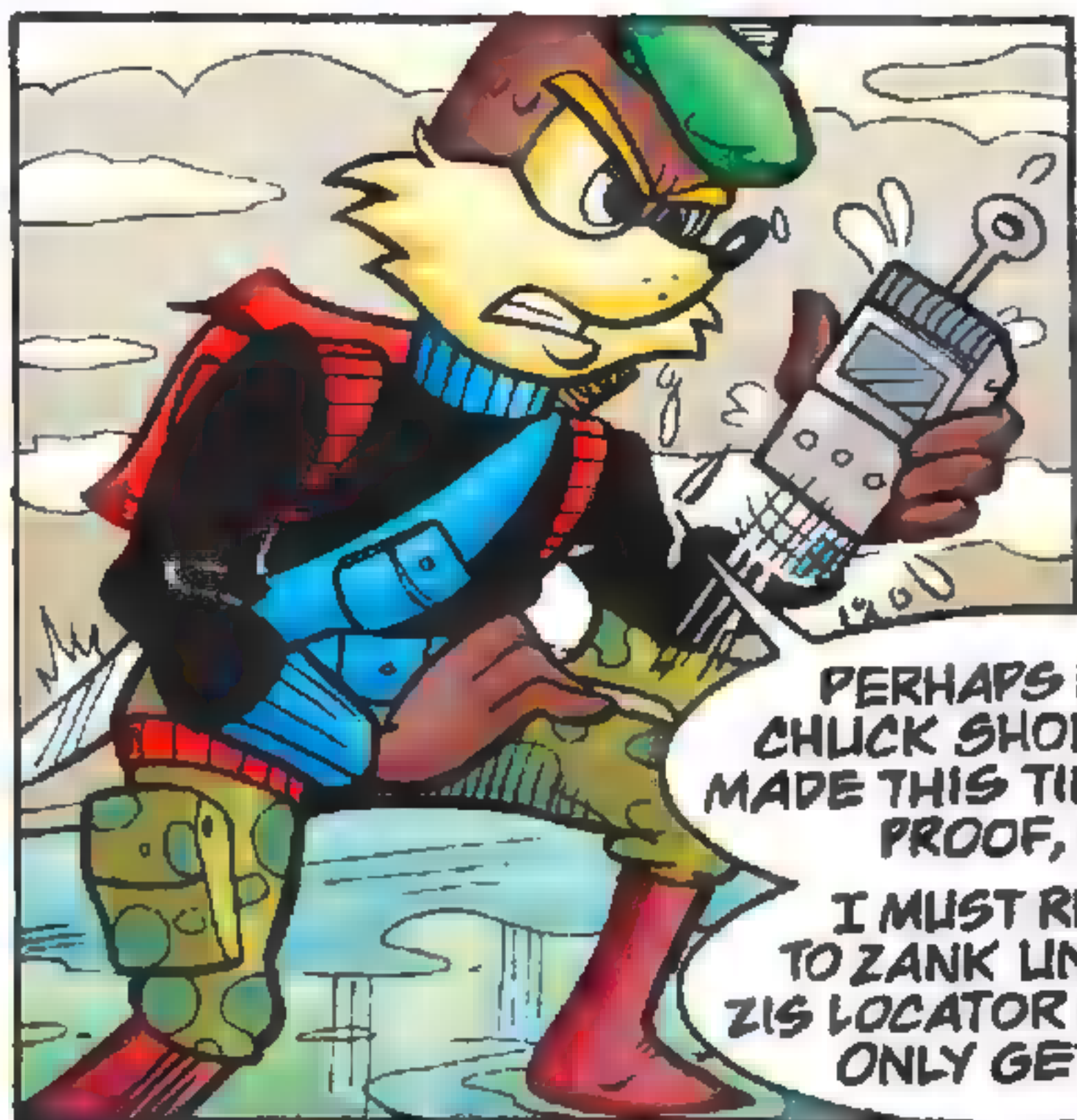
DESTROY. BZZZIT.

ZIS IZ
DE END FOR
ME.

WILL ANTOINE MAKE IT BACK TO KNOTHOLE TO WARN HIS FRIENDS, OR HAS TIME RUN OUT FOR THE FREEDOM FIGHTER?

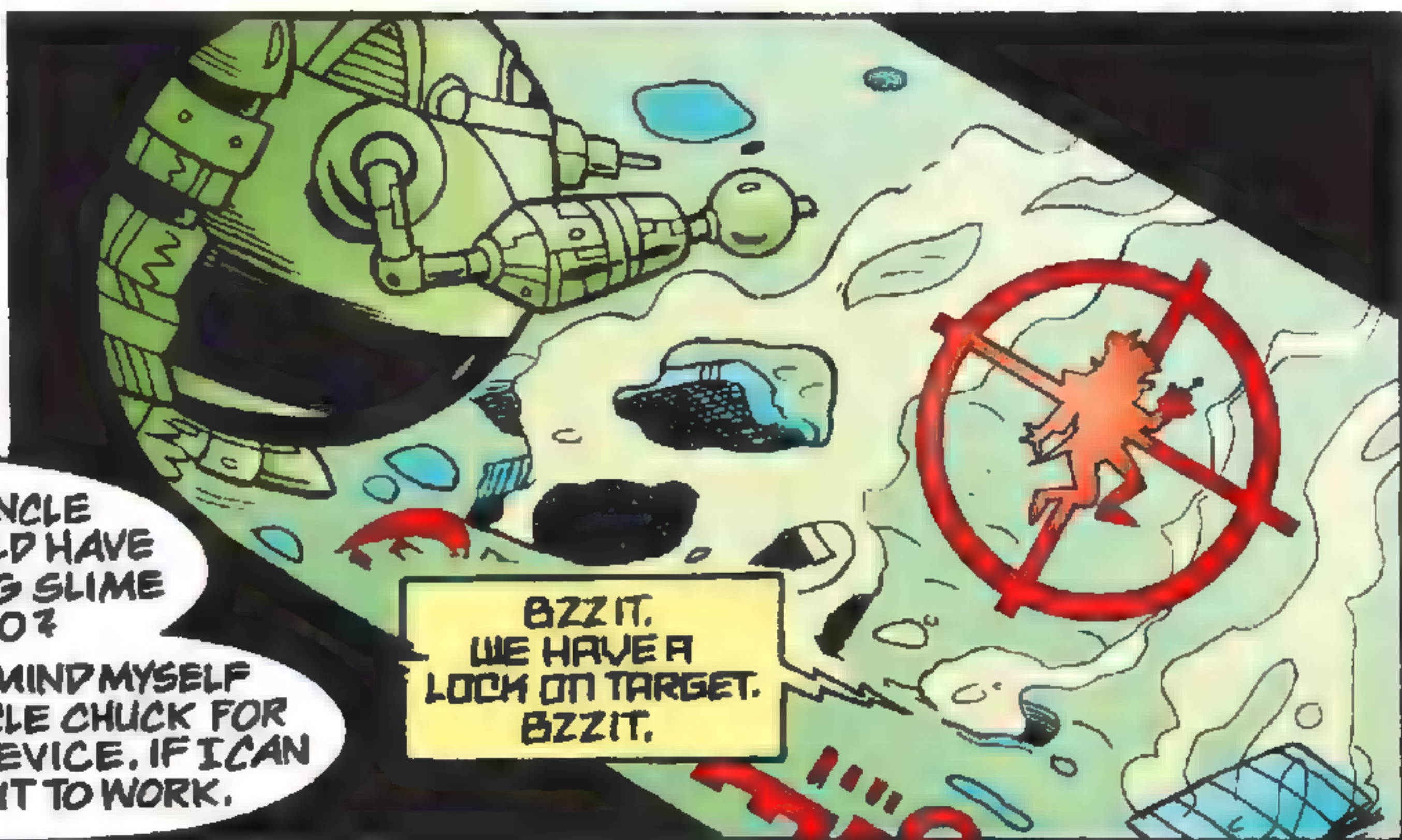
END OF
PART ONE





PERHAPS UNCLE CHUCK SHOULD HAVE MADE THIS THING SLIME PROOF, NO?

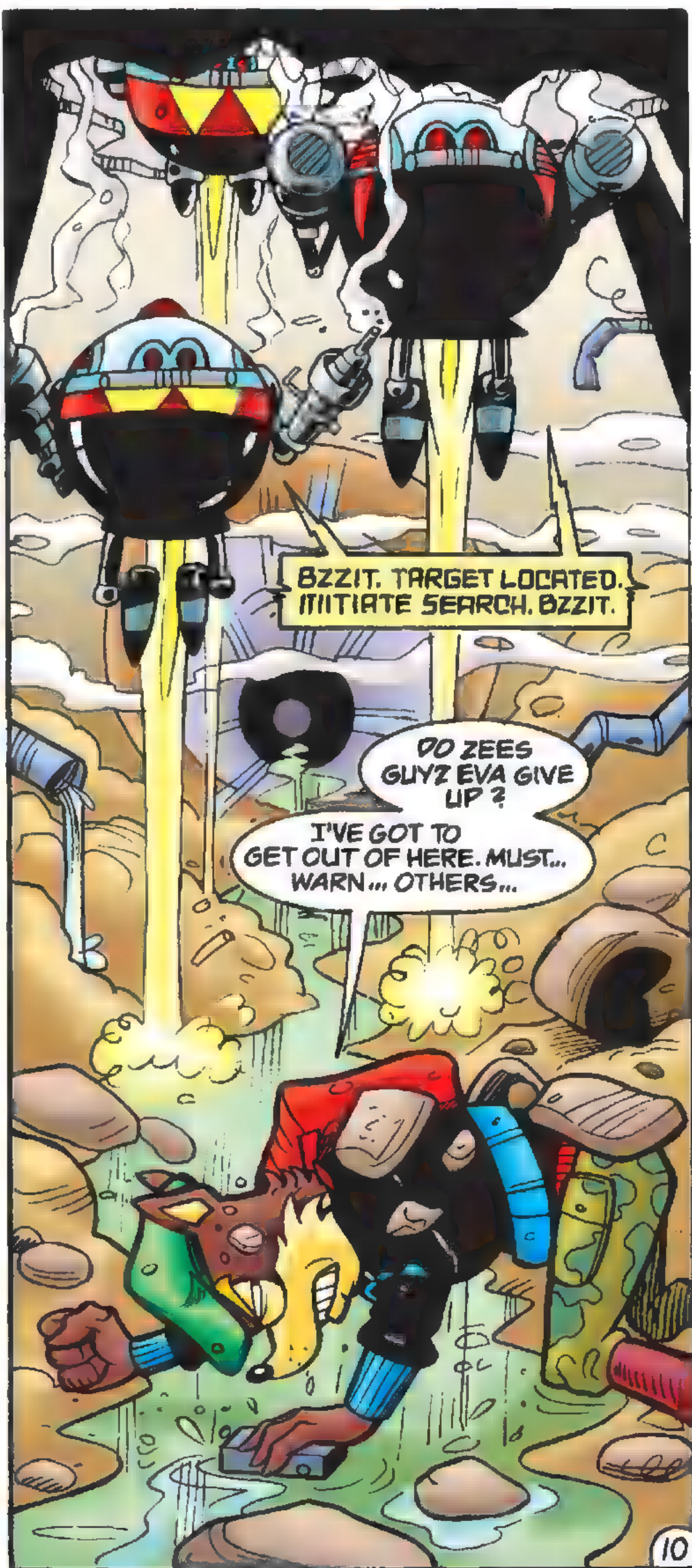
I MUST REMIND MYSELF TO ZANK UNCLE CHUCK FOR HIS LOCATOR DEVICE. IF I CAN ONLY GET IT TO WORK.



BZZIT. WE HAVE A LOCK ON TARGET. BZZIT.



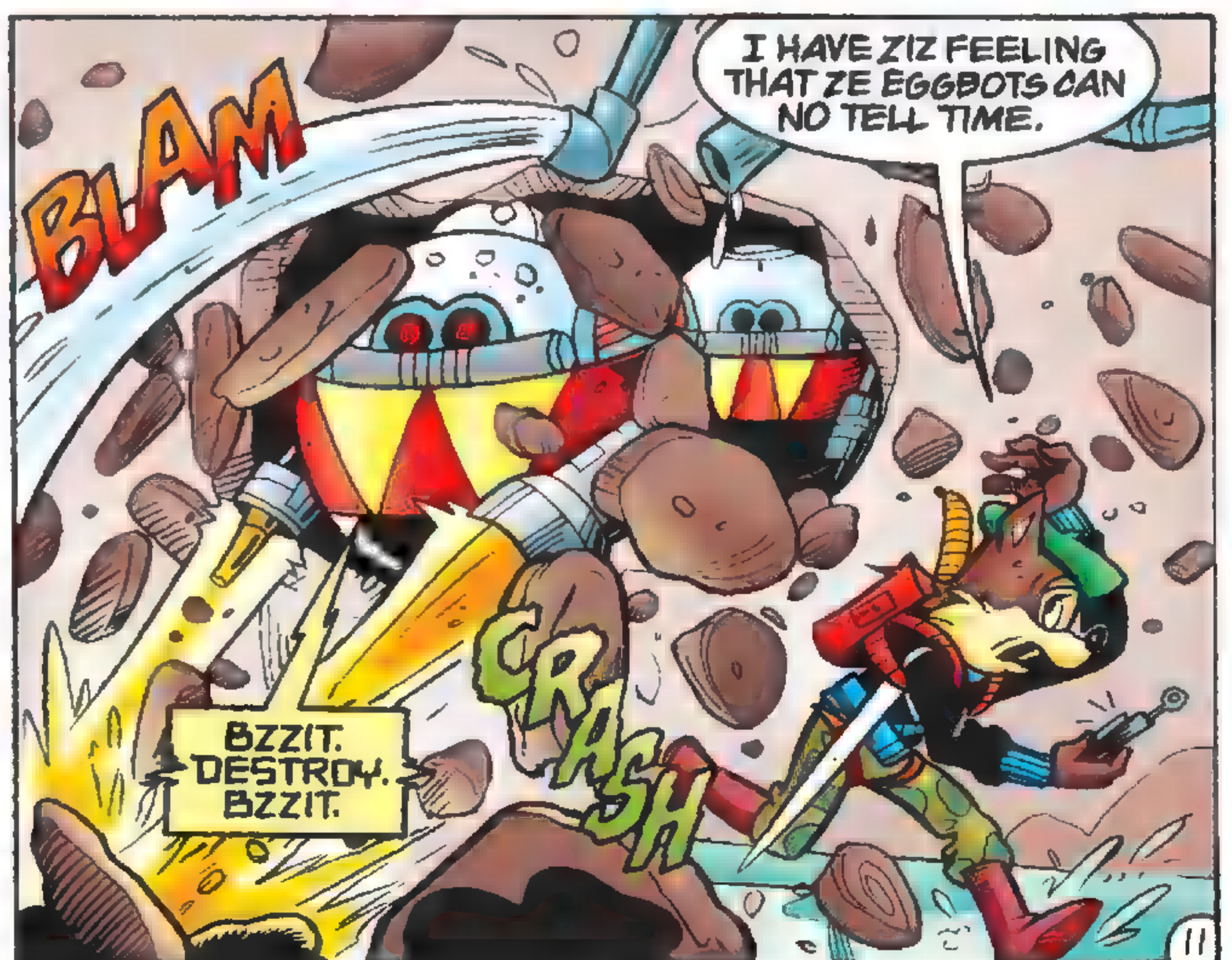
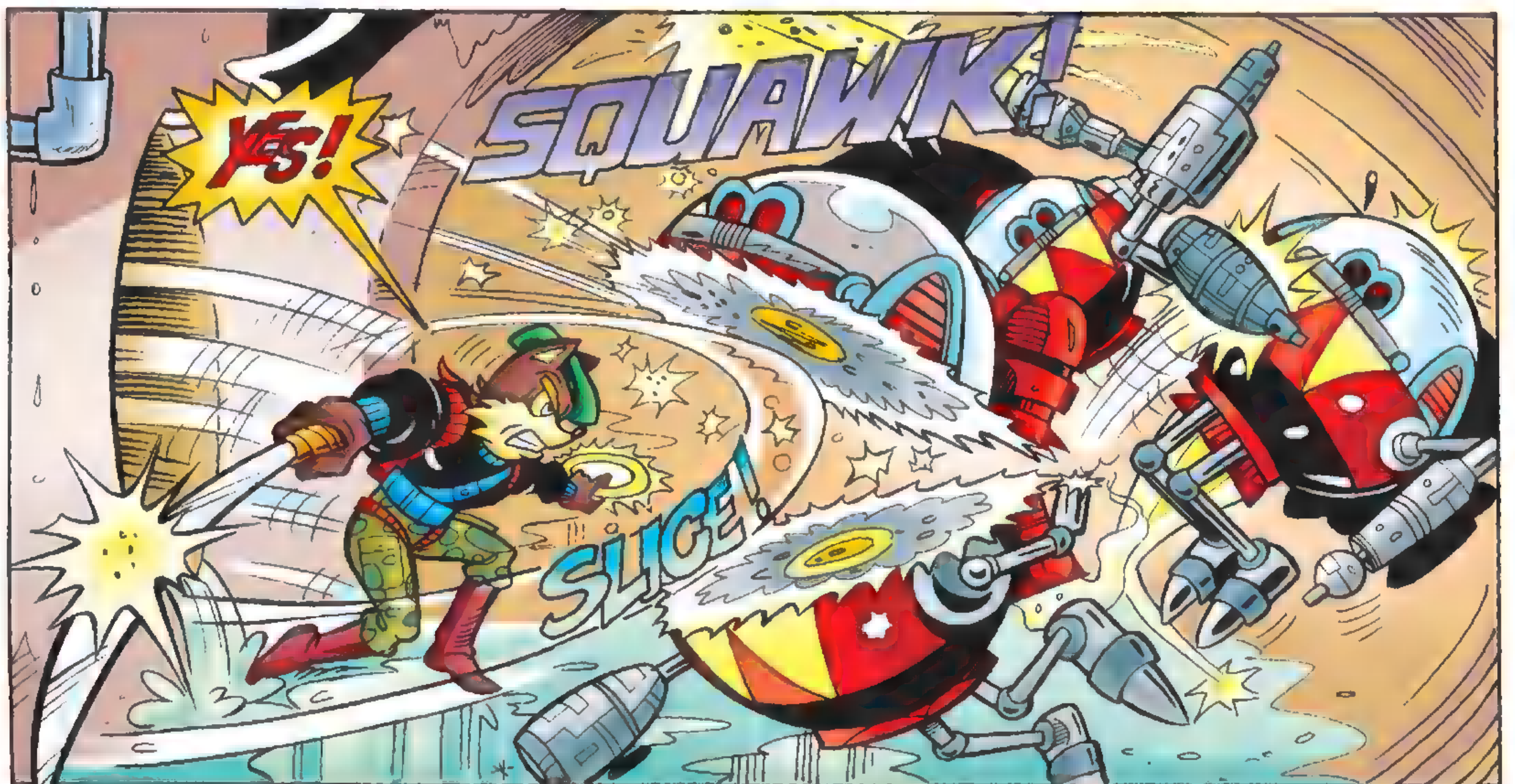
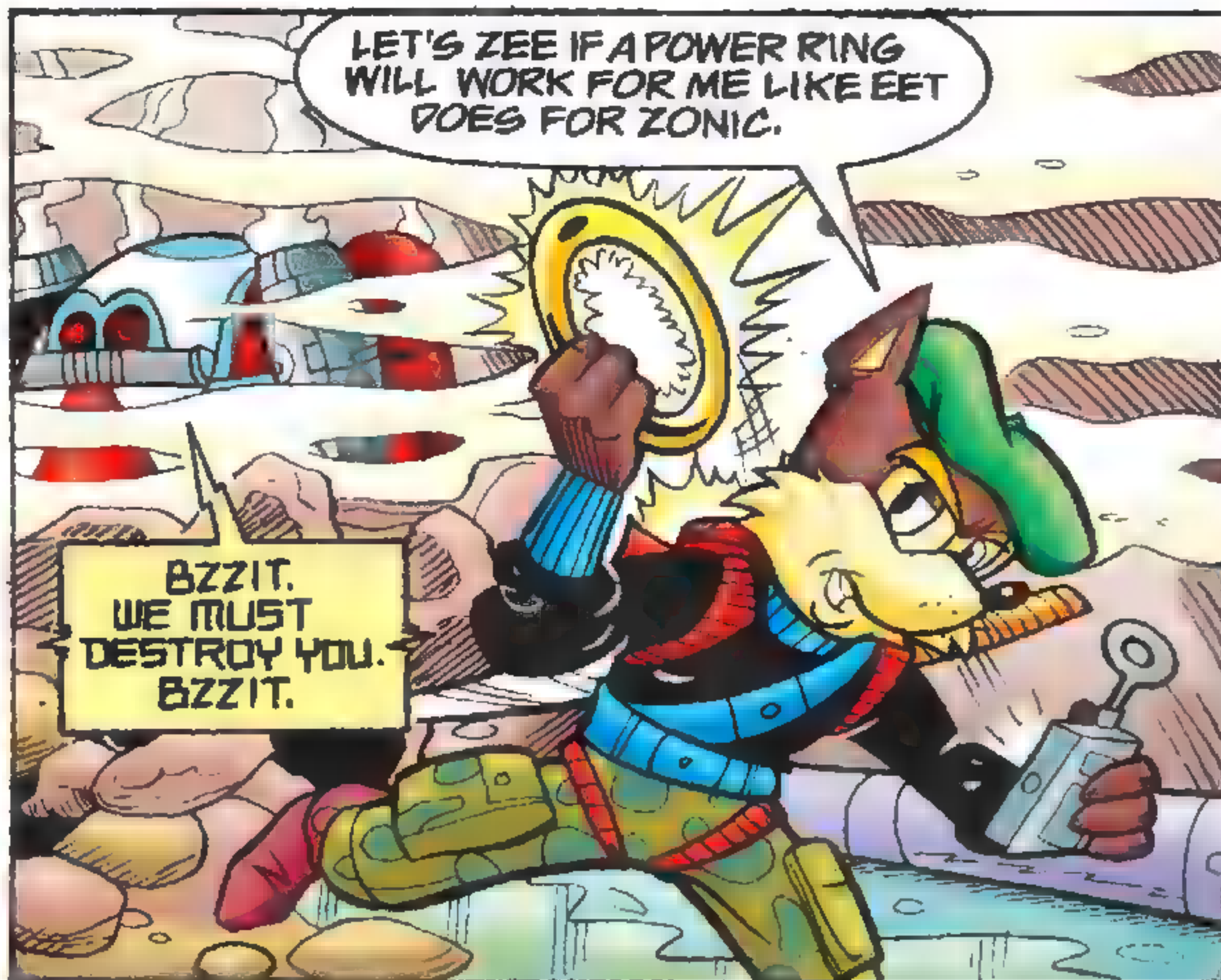
ZONIC WOULD ZAY SOMETHING SNAPPY RIGHT NOW, BUT I CAN NO TINK OF ANYTING.

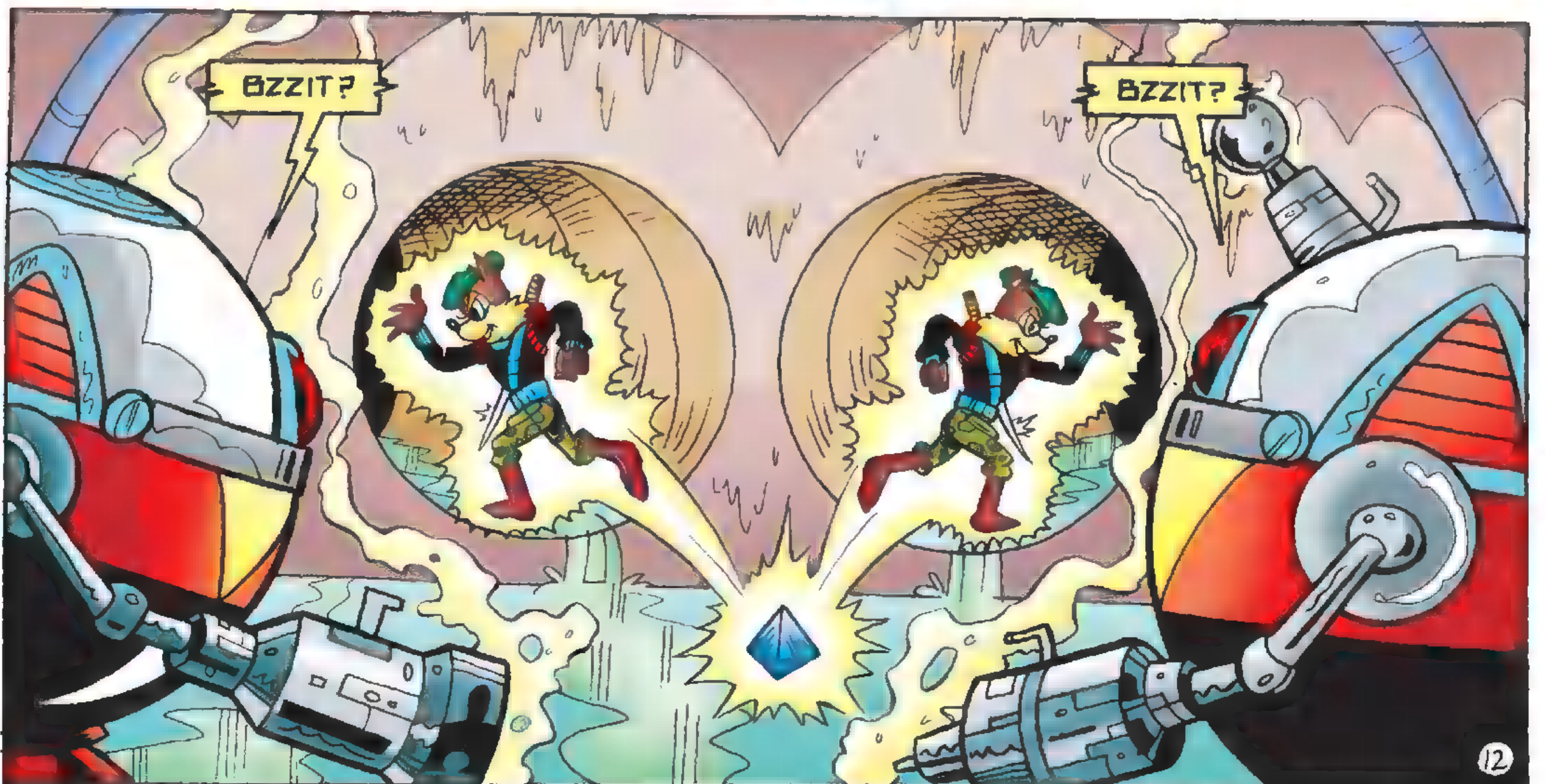
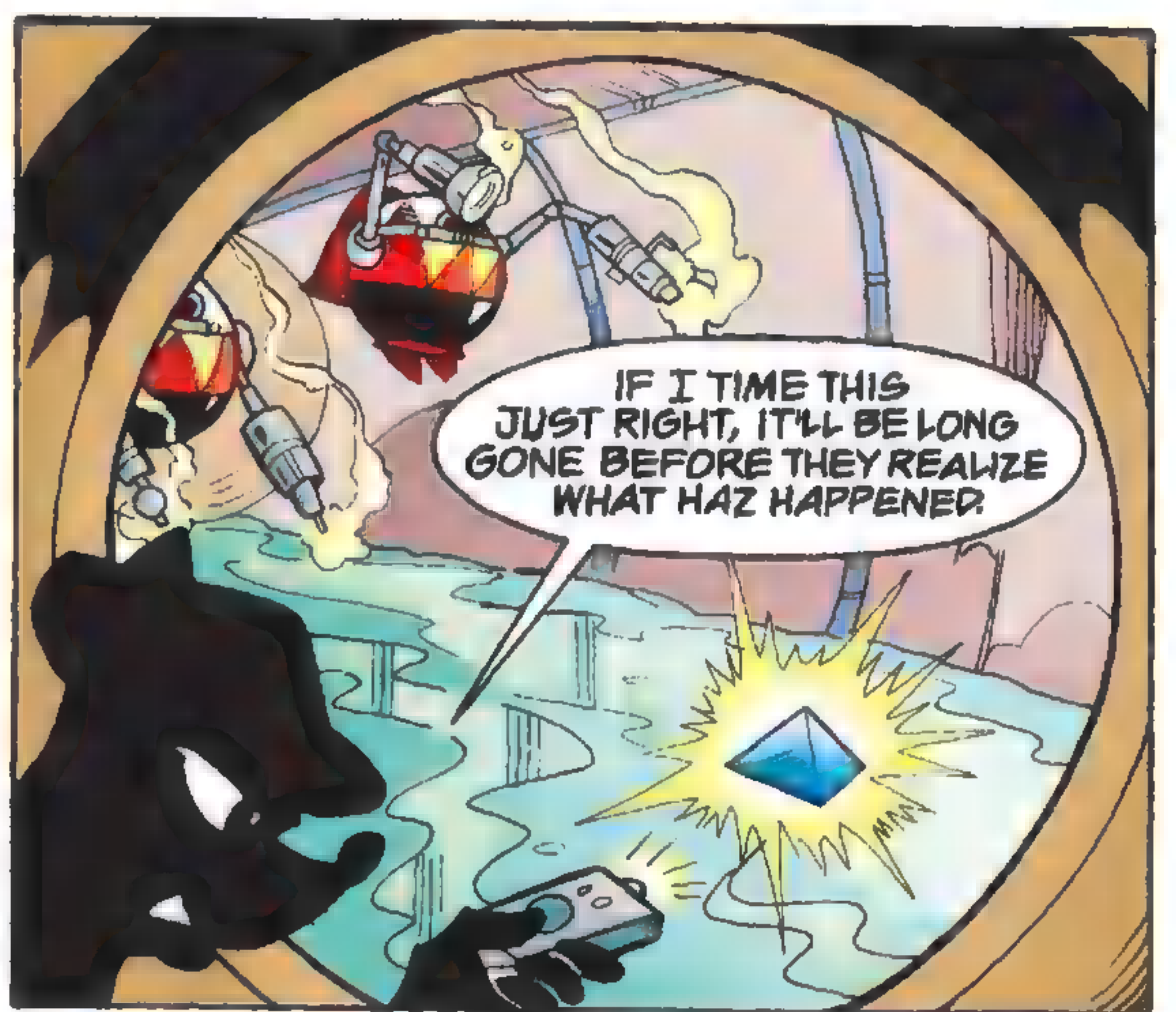
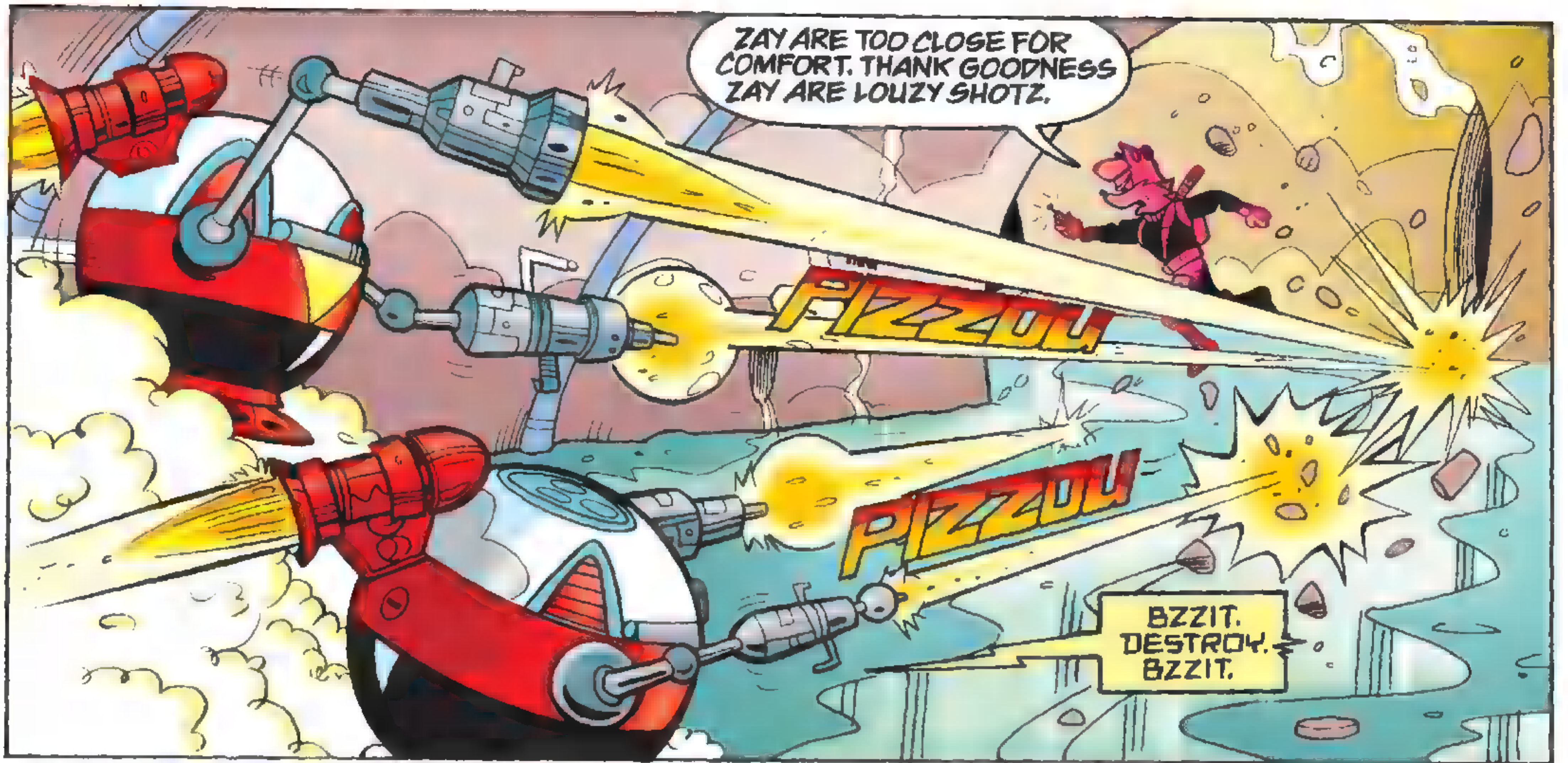


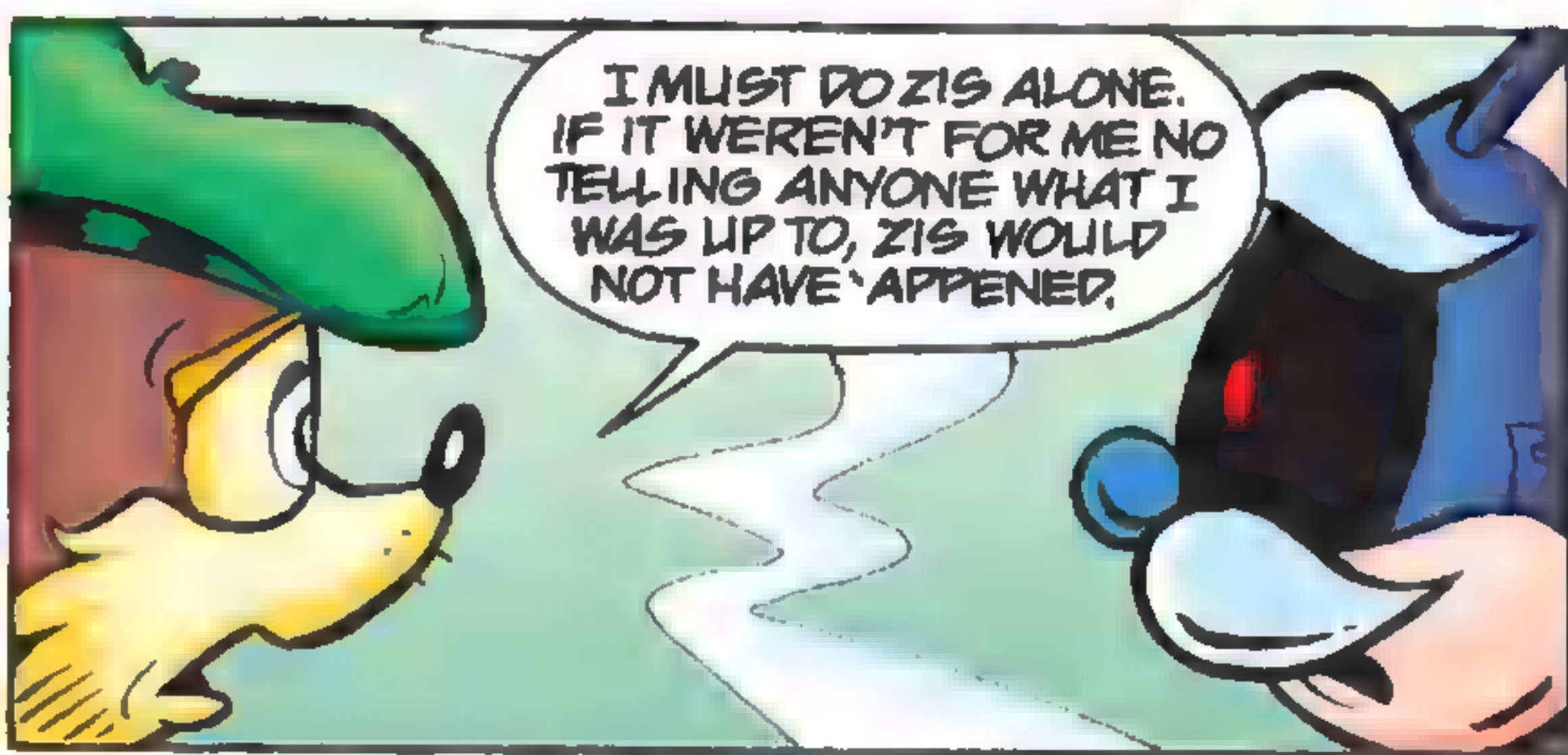
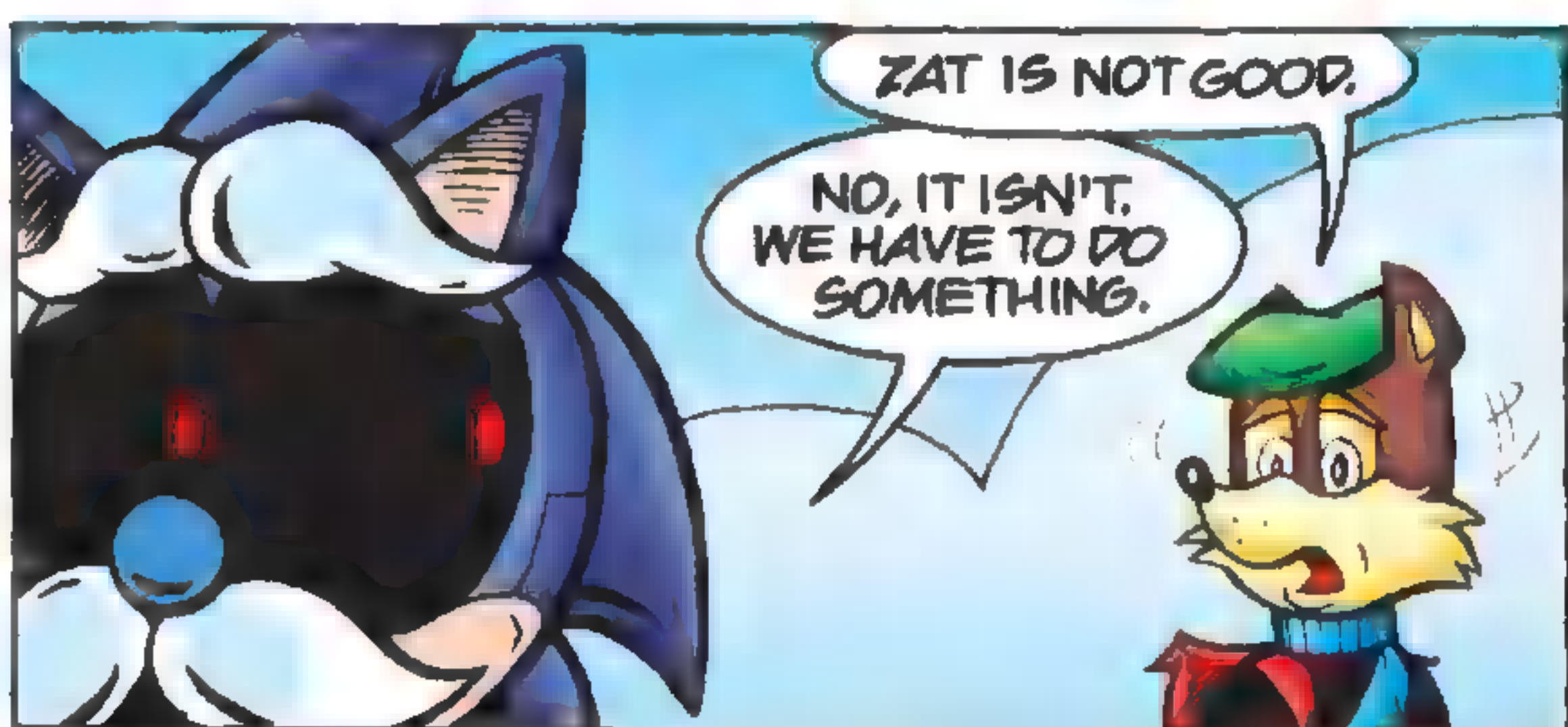
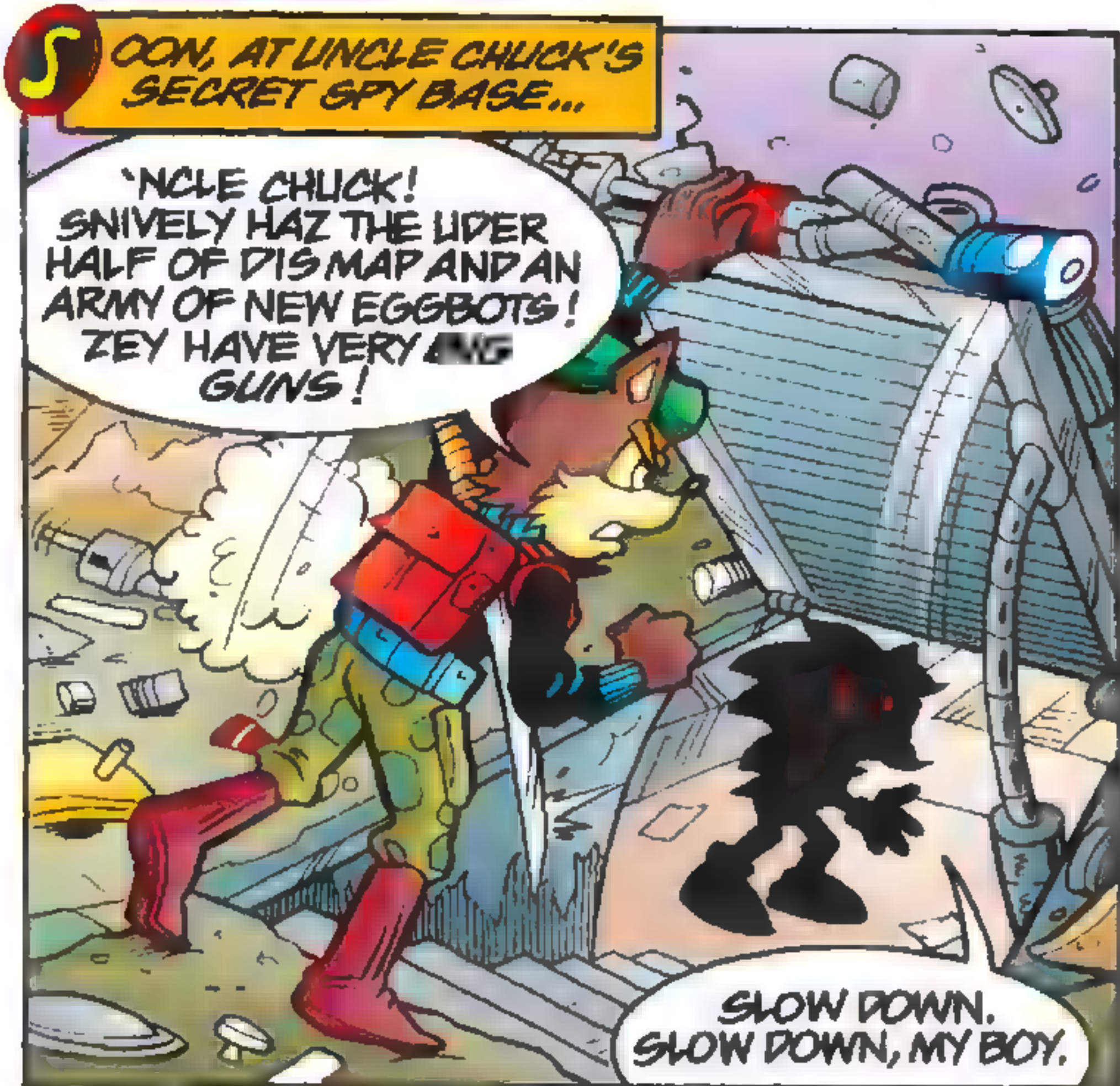
BZZIT. TARGET LOCATED. INITIATE SEARCH. BZZIT.

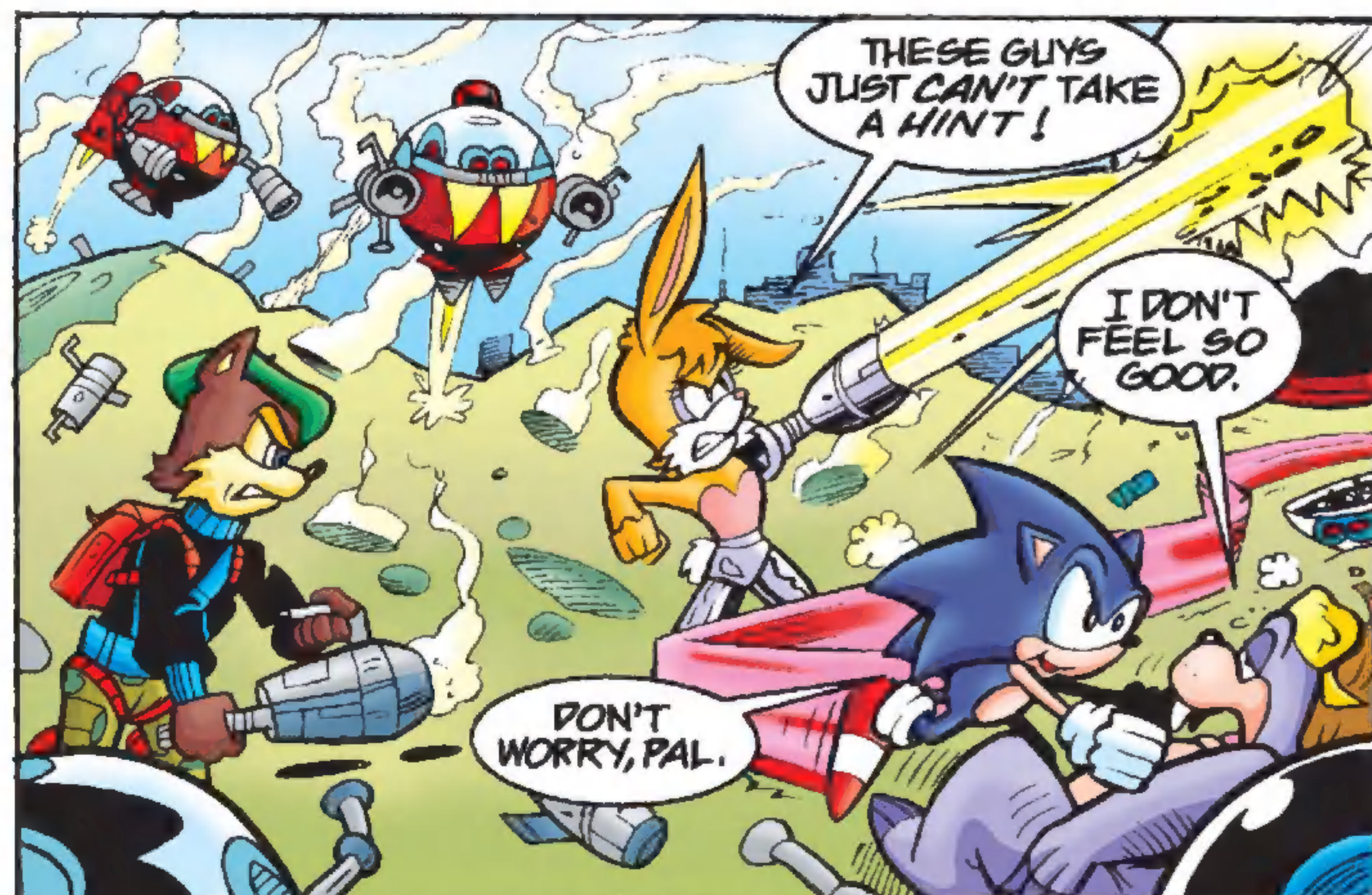
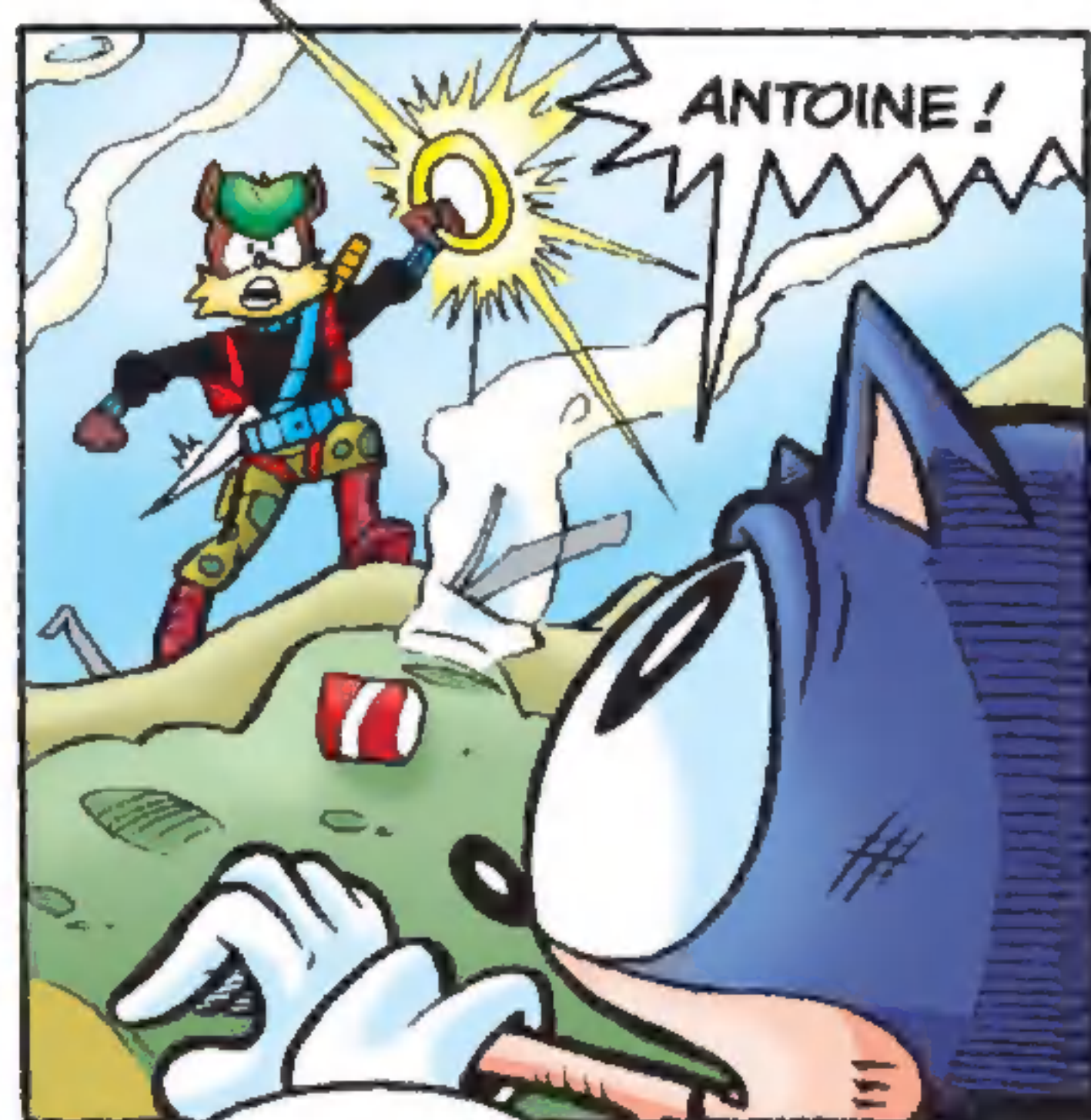
DO ZEES GUYZ EVA GIVE UP?

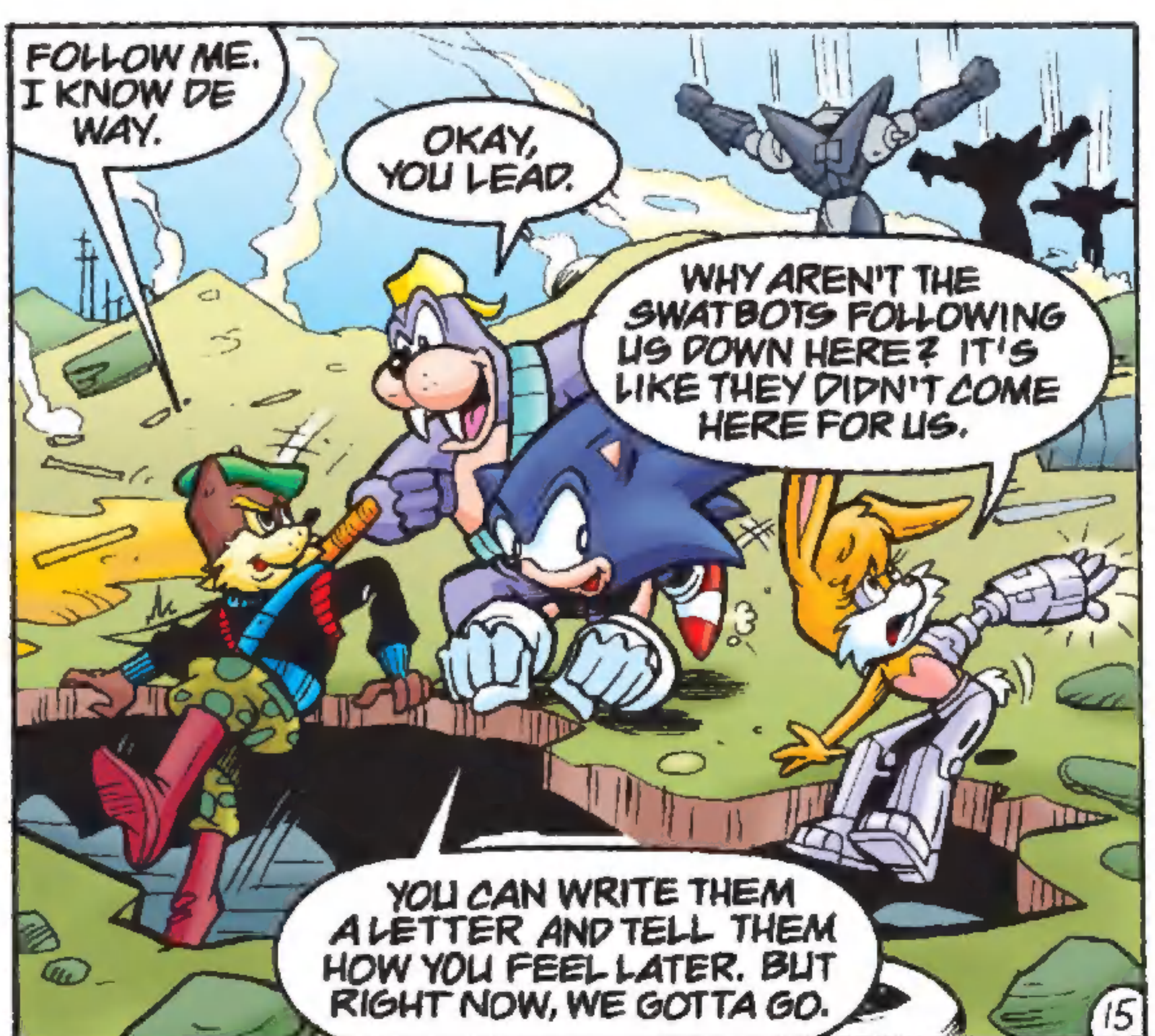
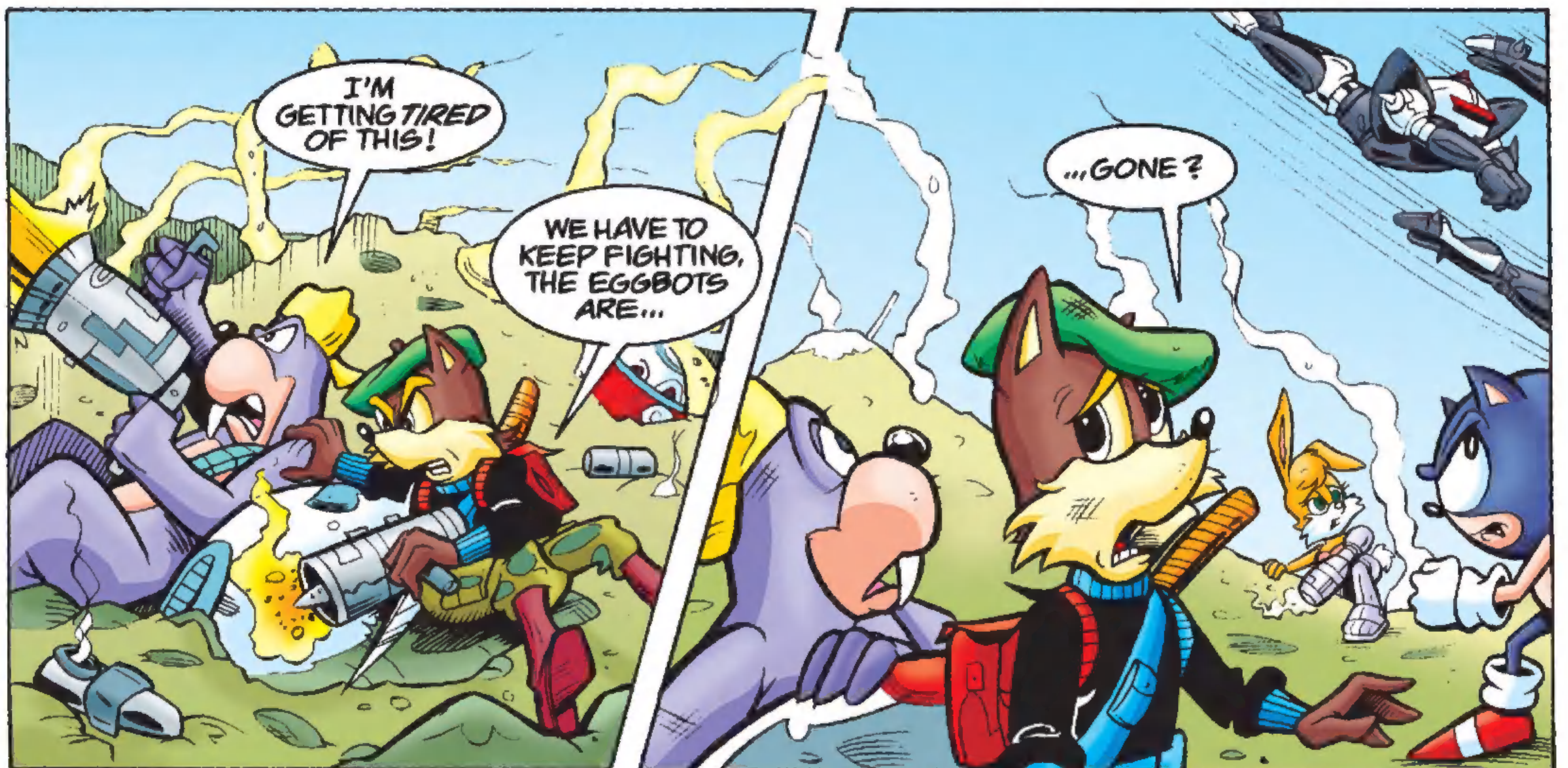
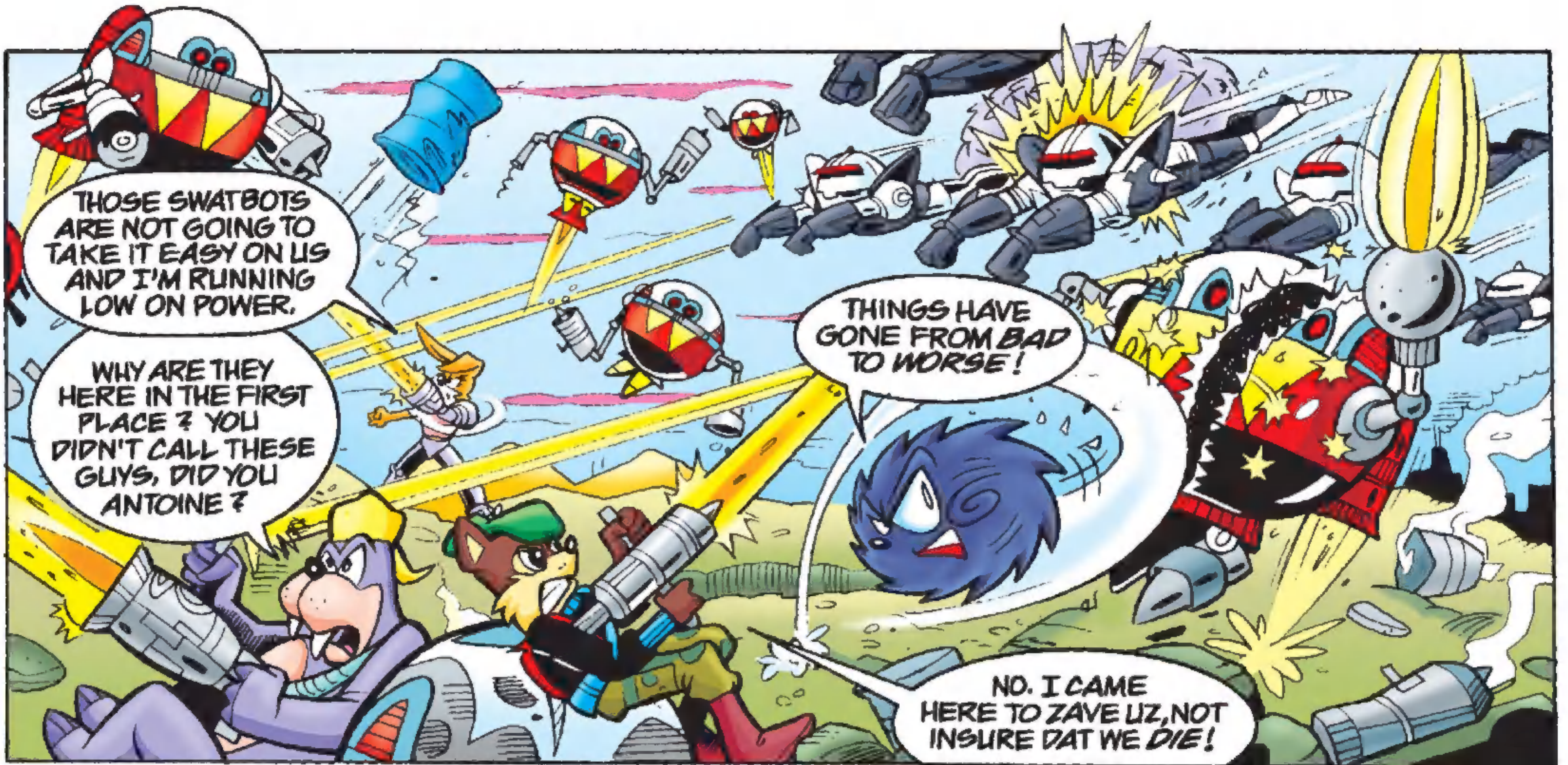
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE. MUST... WARN... OTHERS...

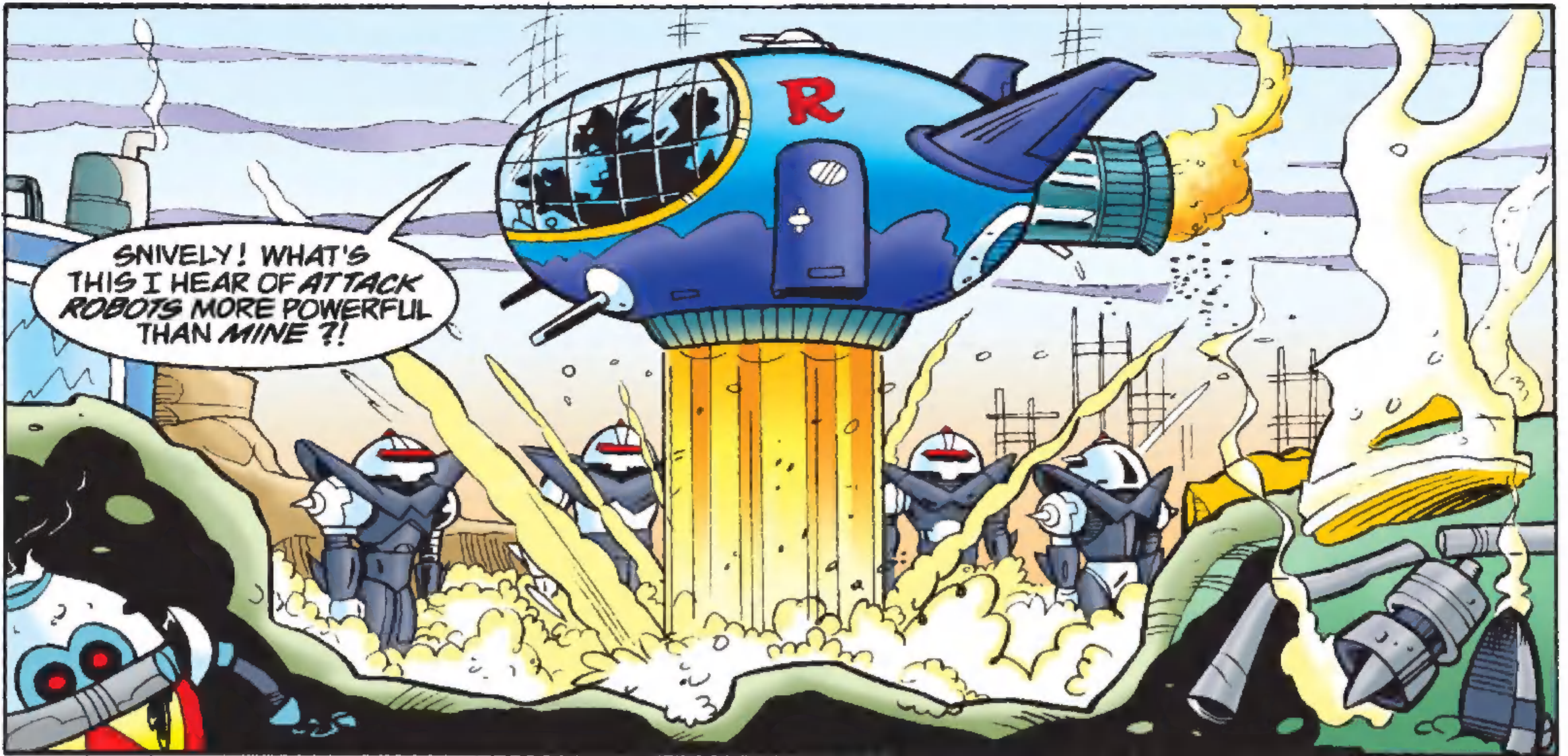












BACK IN KNOTHOLE...



